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PART XXXVII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

83

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XXXVII.

No. 1.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* , 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the second meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held on the 21st April, when, after some formal business, the President invited members to express their opinions on the general principles to be observed in tracing the frontier line of the Balkans. He first called upon me, and though I should have preferred to follow some other member, yet, with a view to dispatch, I expressed myself as follows:—

"In this matter my endeavour will be to give effect to the intentions of the Congress, as expressed in the Treaty.

"I concur with those who entertain the conviction, that the Treaty of Berlin ought to be considered 'un texte sacré.' The Treaty prescribes that the Sultan shall have a defensible frontier. I do not consider myself at liberty to devise for him systems of defence which he might not desire to adopt. I consider myself bound to give him the means of defending the frontier described in the Treaty, if he desires to defend it.

"The important points for defence will be the passes. We must, in my opinion, give him the means of defending the passes, by erecting fortifications, should he consider it expedient to do so; and, as it would be in vain to erect fortifications, unless a certain extent of ground around them should be dominated by their garrisons, in all such cases a reasonable space around the site of the works must be assigned to the Sultan, according to what the Commission, after viewing the ground, may judge to be necessary."

Upon this several members desired to hear the opinion of the Turkish Commissioner before giving their own.

On Tahir Pasha being accordingly invited to speak, he desired two days to prepare. I should observe that I had communicated my views to him before the meeting opened, when he had expressed himself as highly satisfied with them, but it was evident that his Government had omitted to furnish him with instructions. The meeting, therefore, adjourned.

It met again on the 23rd, when the question was considered whether the general principle of giving the Sultan a defensible frontier should apply to the whole extent of the Balkans, or only to the portion from Demir-Kapu to Kosica, in which, according to the Treaty, the line is fixed only inasmuch as it is to follow the principal chain.

The Russian Commissioner took the view that, from the Deli-Kamtchik to Demir-Kapu the Treaty restricts the frontier to certain points, namely, the crests of hills specially named, and to straight lines joining those summits. This I disputed, asserting that though the boundary line ought to pass through the specified summits, yet between those points the rule of giving the Sultan a defensible frontier must apply as elsewhere.

On this point the other members, though apparently inclined to support my view, desired to take the instructions of their Governments, as I have already reported in my telegram of the 23rd April.

The discussion was, therefore, for the present, restricted to the part of the Balkan frontier between Demir-Kapu and Kosica. Upon this Tahir Pasha was now prepared to express his views. He considered that the frontier ought to include a continuous zone of variable width beyond the crest of the principal chain.

The Russian Commissioner expressed his readiness to agree that the Sultan must be allowed sites for defensive works on the frontier, and a zone round each of them, but he considered that the extent of these zones ought not to exceed 1,000 metres, to represent the range of rifle fire.

There were thus three propositions before the Commission, namely, my own and the two last described.

Tahir Pasha's was first put to the vote, and negatived by six to one. He therefore requested to be allowed to refer the question to his Government, possibly with the desire to bring his own proposition more into harmony with the views of the Commission, which was agreed to, and the next meeting was fixed for the 26th April.

It was subsequently agreed that the part of the frontier lying within the Sandjak of Sofia should be the portion first fixed by the Commission.

It was also agreed that my surveying party should proceed thither as soon as possible, to carry on the line from the point where the work of the Russian topographers, as laid before the Commission, left it, namely, eight miles north of Samakov.

These officers only await the settlement of the question of their escort, which is now being arranged between the Russian Ambassador and the General in command in Eastern Roumelia, before starting, when they will, in the first instance, complete the line to Cadir-Tépé, the junction of the Bulgarian, Turkish, and Roumelian frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 38. Political. Confidential.)
Canea, Crete, April 22, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 37 of the 12th instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that my French colleague had received the news that the Porte had consented that half the receipts of the Customs of Crete should form part of the local Budget. Photiades Pasha informs me that the language used by the Grand Vizier on this subject is far from being so precise. His Highness tells his Excellency that the Government will probably consent that half of the customs received between October 14th (the date of the signing of the arrangement made between the Cretan Delegates and Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha) and the 12th March (the end of the financial year) shall be granted to the local Budget, and that the Council of Ministers has under its consideration the granting of the said revenue for the needs of the local admininistration for the current financial year.

Now, it is very doubtful whether the half of the customs receipts for the period first specified has not been already diverted to other channels, and in the meantime the administration is being starved. The officials and the gendarmerie in the greater part of the island have been paid up to the middle of March, but funds are now almost totally wanting to continue payment, nor will any be forthcoming till the grain crops (which from the want of rain will be very scanty) are thrashed in June and July. The only available means, therefore, of meeting current expenses consists in the customs revenue, which the Vali intends to devote to the payment of the police.

The preservation of order in the island is so intimately bound up with the regular payment of that force, that I trust I shall be excused for constantly reverting to the question of the customs dues, which thus becomes one of capital importance, and ought, without delay, to be decided in conformity with the arrangement signed on the 14th October, 1878.

The Governor-General set out on the 15th instant on a tour of inspection in the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 3.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 30 Avril, 1879.*

IL nous est revenu qu'une certaine interprétation de l'Article XV du Traité de Berlin tendrait à amoindrir le droit de la Sublime Porte de faire occuper par des troupes régulières les frontières de terre et de mer de la Roumélie Orientale, en lui enlevant l'exercice de ce droit dans les localités habitées par les Bulgares. Une semblable restriction est absolument contraire à la lettre et à l'esprit de l'Article XV, qui stipule que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan aura le droit de pourvoir à la défense des frontières de terre et de mer, d'élever sur ces frontières des fortifications, et d'y entretenir des troupes; d'où il suit que la présence d'habitants Bulgares sur les points de la frontière de terre et de mer, destinés à servir de boulevard défensif, ne saurait mettre obstacle à leur occupation par nos troupes.

Je vous prie de vous appliquer à ce que cette interprétation erronée et contraire aux droits de la Sublime Porte ne puisse prévaloir dans l'esprit du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, notamment en ce qui touche Bourgas, situé sur la frontière de mer et qui est un point sur lequel les mesures de défense doivent porter.

Aux termes du Traité de Berlin, l'évacuation par les troupes Russes de la Roumélie Orientale doit commencer le 3 Mai prochain. Nous n'avons aucune raison de mettre en doute la stricte observation de cet engagement; mais, en raison des graves inconvénients qui résulteraient dans le cas contraire, je vous prie d'insister, à l'occasion, auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur la nécessité de l'exécution scrupuleuse et immédiate de cette stipulation internationale.

No. 4.

MM. Gueshoff and Yancoloff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

Charing Cross Hotel, London, April 30, 1879.

My Lord,

WE have the honour to inform you that we are going to publish the correspondence which has passed between your Lordship and us.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. GUESHOFF.
Dr. G. D. YANCOLOFF.

No. 5.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 30, 1879.*

JOMINI has suggested to Livadia majority principle should be unconditionally accepted, provided, in any case of serious dispute, Commissioners were given time to communicate with their Governments before final vote is taken, that vote when taken to be conclusive, notwithstanding continued opposition of individual Governments. Might not this do?

No. 6.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 163. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs sent for me to-day to consult me on a memorandum of the Russian. He gave me a copy on the understanding that it should not appear in a Blue Book. It is as follows:—"My ideas are perfectly fixed. The Russian Administration can give up its powers only to an Administration formed in accordance with Organic

Statute, and between these two Administrations there must not be an interregnum, leav [ing] the ground free for the promoters of disorders.

Consequently before everything the Statute must be promulgated.

As to putting in execution, this task could only be fulfilled by Russian Administration under the sanction, and with the assistance of, the European Commission.

As it is impossible to determine the moment at which all the parts of the administrative mechanism may be organized, it must be left to the European Commission to fix the moment at which the new Administration could definitively replace Russian.

This, Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks, would place the Government in the hands of the Commission, which, unless the principle of a majority is admitted, would give the Administration entirely into the power of Russia.

I also fear, from the terms of the Memorandum, that the Russians would consider the new organization complete only when the Assembly had been elected and the permanent Committee constituted.

I suggested that Administration should be at once handed over to Aleko Pasha and his Privy Council, and that if the Commission is to act, its functions should be those of the permanent Committee.

His Excellency liked this idea. He said that he should resist the Russian proposal, and begged me to bring forward mine as a compromise. This I undertook to do if you approved, but I was afraid of running counter to negotiations going on elsewhere.

Please send instructions.

No. 7.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 1, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs intends suspending for the present Prince Tzeretelew's exequatur, to prevent his being at the same time Consul-General and a member of the Commission with administrative functions. His Excellency consulted me as to refusing the Prince's exequatur altogether, on account of his having been for so long mixed up in Bulgarian affairs. I avoided giving a decided answer, though privately I think it would be a good thing.

No. 8.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 387.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1879.

PRINCE LABANOFF has had a telegram from his Government, asking him how the Porte regards the arrangement come to with regard to Eastern Roumelia.

The Prince replied by asking to what arrangement his Government referred, as he had had no instructions to communicate any new arrangement.

Russian Government answered by referring to communications with Lord Dufferin.

Prince has replied that, as he understood, the arrangement is still under discussion, and he asked if he is to make any communication to the Porte, and, if so, what?

He asked me if I had had instructions to inform Porte of an arrangement agreed upon, and I replied in the negative.

No. 9.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 388.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul-General Michell, dated yesterday:—

"Just come from Te Deum in honour of Emperor of Russia's birthday, followed by review of Russian troops and Roumelian militia and gymnasts of Philippopolis district, numbering about 20,000 peasants, of whom about two-thirds armed.

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 278.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 1, 1879.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me on the 25th ultimo the substance of a telegram which he had received from his Government with regard to the settlement of the frontier of Khotour.

The demarcation of this boundary line is, as your Excellency is aware, to be intrusted to the Commission constituted, under the agreement signed by Count Schouvaloff and myself, for the settlement of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey in the valley of the Alashkerd.

The Russian Government think it would be desirable to settle the basis on which the Commission should proceed in this portion of its labours.

After observing that the LXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin states that the Porte cedes to Persia the town and territory of Khotour, "as fixed by the mixed Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Turkey and Persia," the telegram pointed out that the Commission in question had sat at Constantinople in 1875, but had been compelled to suspend its labours before bringing them to completion, in consequence of the outbreak of the war.

As, however, the Commission was to restore the territorial *status quo* of 1848 with regard to Khotour and its district in conformity with the Treaty of Erzeroum, the Russian Government consider that the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin require that the present Commission should also base its operations on the Treaty of Erzeroum, and have regard to the state of affairs in 1848 in tracing the limits of the district in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 288.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, May 1, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 75 of to-day, reporting that Count Schouvaloff had assured Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had quite concurred in not considering it desirable for the Turkish troops to enter Bourgas till after the evacuation of the whole country by Russia had been completed, your Excellency will find in my telegram No. 19 to Lord Dufferin of the 8th April an exact statement of what I proposed to Russia in respect to Bourgas. Since then there has been no further proposal made upon the subject, nor has any answer been received from the Russian Government. I communicated the substance of my telegram to Lord Dufferin, necessarily paraphrased, to Count Károlyi.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 27.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 244.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 1, 1879.

THE German Ambassador called upon me to-day, and, in the course of conversation, informed me that Prince Bismarck had reason to be extremely dissatisfied with the attitude of the Russian Government towards him. For Count Schouvaloff and his policy he always entertained a lively sympathy, but the action of the Russian Government in throwing upon Prince Bismarck the blame of all concessions which Russia was compelled to make at Berlin was, in his Highness' views, wholly unjustifiable, for his action had rather been to sustain Russia than to press her during the deliberations of the Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 28.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 220. Very Confidential.)

Foreign Office, May 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 163 of the 30th ultimo, in which you state that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has consulted you upon a proposal made by the Russians, that the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia should be carried into execution by the Russian Provisional Administration, acting under the sanction and with the assistance of the European Commissioner, and that it should be left to the latter body to fix the moment at which the Russian authorities should be replaced by the new Administration.

The suggestion in question seems clearly objectionable, as tending unnecessarily to prolong the tenure of the Provisional Administration. It is inevitable that there should be a transitional period while the present provisional organization is being replaced by the new institutions, but this should be made as short as possible, and the new Governor-General of the province, Aleko Pasha, should be ready at once to take over the Government, exercising his functions for the present with the advice and assistance of the European Commission.

According to the Treaty the Russian occupation ends on the 3rd May, and from that moment all Russian appointments now existing in the province will cease to be legal, and ought, in fact, to be terminated with the least possible delay.

Your proposition, that the Administration should be at once handed over to Aleko Pasha and his Privy Council, while the European Commission would exercise for the time the functions of the Permanent Committee, to be afterwards instituted under the Organic Statute, seems to me to be judicious. It should, however, be an indispensable condition that the Commission should not undertake the exercise of any executive authority except on the system of proceeding by the vote of the majority.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it is very desirable that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha when he enters on his government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 29.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No 38. Political.)

Trebizond, April 15, 1879.

My Lord,

HAVING lately heard that the district of Geghi, in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, where tranquillity was restored last year in consequence of the intervention of Her Majesty's Embassy, was again threatened with a recurrence of the former state of things, I begged Mr. Parmelee, of the American Mission of Erzeroum, now here, who had details on the subject, to communicate them to me for your Lordship's information.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the note which Mr. Parmelee addressed to me, and from which it appears that the present Kaïmakam of Geghi, whose name he does not know, but who, according to all probabilities, is Suleiman Bey of Terjan, is persecuted by the Beys because of his defending the people against them.

It is to be hoped, for the tranquillity of the Christian and Mussulman communities in the district of Geghi, that the intrigues of the Beys for obtaining his removal from office will not only prove fruitless, but also that his position will be ameliorated, in order to encourage and enable him to persist in the praiseworthy line of conduct that he has hitherto followed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 29.

The Rev. M. Parmelee to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Trebizond, April 15, 1879.

Sir,

YOU have doubtless often heard of the oppressions of the Beys in the district of Geghi, a Kaïmakamlik in the Vilayet of Erzeroum. It would seem that these oppressors were still carrying on their depredations with impunity.

Ismail Bey, of Temran, is one of the worst of these men. He has lately driven the people of the village of Shea from their houses and taken possession of their property.

The account of this is as follows:—

A few years ago a Koord located himself near the village of Shea, and made himself very obnoxious to the villagers by recklessly destroying the forests and injuring their fields and pasture lands. For this reason the villagers endeavoured to get him away; but being unable to do so, they at last went to Mehmed Bey, the father of Ismail Bey, of Temran, asking his help. He told them this Koord was giving him 5 batmans (about 85 lbs.) of butter a-year, and he must protect the Koords. The villagers then incautiously promised Mehmed Bey 5 batmans of butter yearly if he would remove the Koord from their vicinity. He did so, and as long as Mehmed Bey lived the villagers uncomplainingly paid this tribute. After his death, however, they grew restive, and tried various ways of ridding themselves of this heavy burden, but Ismail Bey would not release his grasp on them. At last they carried their case to Erzeroum, where they secured a Decree that Ismail Bey had no claim whatever on them.

The Kaïmakam of Geghi at that time was one Sadik Bey, of Horoo, a confrère and friend of Ismail Bey. This Kaïmakam asked to see the Decree that had come from Erzeroum, and when it was once in his hands he refused to return it to the villagers, saying it was proper for him to keep it. Ismail Bey was thus free to persecute the villagers, against whom he had become thoroughly incensed, and he has succeeded at last in driving them from their houses, and the poor villagers are now in the utmost distress, and beg for assistance from some quarter that they may be again reinstated in their homes.

I have many other details of the oppressions of these Geghi Beys, notably of one Hassan Bey, of Horoo, but I will not weary you with their repetition.

The present Kaïmakam of Geghi (I regret that I cannot give his name) is said to be desirous of defending the people against their oppressors, and has naturally incurred the enmity of the Beys, who are trying to get him removed. It is to be hoped they will not succeed; but as it would seem this Kaïmakam has an intention of living on an honest income, it is said he stands in pressing need of a better salary.

It is to be hoped his personal needs will be provided for, and that he will be supported by a sufficient police force to enforce order and secure justice for the people against their powerful oppressors.

If possible, too, those Beys should be compelled not only to make ample restitution of what they have taken fraudulently, but also be made to expiate their crimes in a prison or in exile.

I am, &c.

(Signed) M. P. PARMELEE.

No. 30.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 19.)

Constantinople, April 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived here last night, and immediately on landing placed myself in communication with Mr. Malet, Her Majesty's Minister.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 31.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 20, covering Lord Dufferin's No. 63, with two inclosures, referring to the acknowledgment by the Russian Government of the omission of the word "près" from Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 32.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 23. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Malet was kind enough to present me to-day to his Excellency Caratheodory Pasha, and at the interview Mr. Malet read extracts from the telegram which I had the honour to forward to you yesterday.

His Excellency, handing me the results of the deliberations of the Commission embodied in a formal document (translation inclosed), and delineated on a Russian map (of which I hope to send a tracing by next messenger), requested me confidentially to write him a Memorandum on the subject.

A copy of that Memorandum I have the honour herewith to submit, and I trust that it will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

Your Lordship will perceive that the main point in question is a divergence from the Treaty of Berlin, which I conceive has taken place in the interpretation of a clause in Article LVIII.

The whole question turns on the interpretation of the words "En ligne droite." The word "droite" in the Treaty can have no other meaning than "direct," *i.e.*, the shortest line. From the point south of Artwin and north-west of Khorda the frontier line should strike the river by the shortest line. The Russians, in order to gain more territory, have selected a line which strikes it at an oblique angle higher up the river, and the Turks have yielded. If we admit that a "ligne droite" is merely a straight line, of course an inconceivable number of straight lines might be drawn, and the Turks on their side might have claimed to draw a straight line to Batoum, which line would have equally come under the designation of "straight."

The direct or the shortest line then is the only one, I submit, which could have been contemplated by the Signatory Powers, and the Turks, by following the Russian interpretation, have lost territory.

It is the principle of the departure from the terms of the Treaty to which I hope the Turkish Government may be induced to offer opposition, for if it is departed from in this case we may have the Treaty set aside in others.

With regard to the tracing of a portion of the frontier beyond Kara-Ourgan, which appeared on the map submitted to Caratheodory Pasha by the Commission, and to which his Excellency's attention was particularly directed, Mr. Malet made the erasure from the map of the portion traced a condition of my sitting on the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Translation of a Pièce Diplomatique submitted by the Turkish and Russian Commissioners for the consideration of their Governments.

CONFORMABLY to the Treaty of Berlin, and in part to the Treaty of San Stefano, as well as to the map attached to the XIXth Article of the latter, the new frontier between Russia and Turkey, commencing on the shore of the Black Sea at Cape Kopmoush, situated between the villages of Makriali and Abou-Islah, is continued to

the summit of Mamalh (or Zigaristé) by the line of water parting that divides the affluents of the Makriali-Sou and of the Itch-Kalé from those of the Hopa river; following the crest of the same ridge, which separates the affluents of the Mourgoul-Sou from those of the Hopa, the frontier reaches the summit of Daghis-Dagh. Thence it follows the line of water parting between the affluents of the Mourgoul-Sou and Hatila-Sou on the one side, and those of the Arkhavé and Cobikis-Tskali (an affluent of the Parkhal) on the other side; and still further, the frontier continues along the chain of mountains to the point to the south of Artwin and to the north-west of Khorda—a point which is within the triangle formed by the villages Tchatil-Tsvara, Tchikeleth, and Mélo (or Milo), and which is marked on the map.

From the point indicated to the south of Artwin and to the north-west of Khorda the frontier follows the River Sari-Sou to its junction with the River Milo-Sou; crosses this river, and follows the crest, as shown on the map, as far as the junction of the rivers Nikzovani and Tchoroukh.

From this point the frontier follows the "Thalweg" of the Tchoroukh to the junction of the River Hirs-Sou with the Tchoroukh, quits this latter and follows, as shown on the map, the crest on the east of the village of Erkinez, whilst it is continued to the summit lying on the east of the village of Avéréss and north-east of the village of Jschkhana; thence it follows the crest as far as the River Olti-Tchai, crosses this river, ascends again by the mountain chain situated between the two rivers shown on the map, and is continued, whilst it follows the most prominent ridges, which stretch towards the south, as far as the point to the south of Nariman fixed on the map.

From the point to the south of Nariman the frontier gains the chain of mountains, strikes the River Toumbouli-Deressi, as shown on the map, and follows the river to a point shown on the map, which is about a verst and a half distant from Tebrenec. Thence the frontier again ascends the heights, taking a south-easterly direction, in conformity with the line marked on the map, and descends by the heights to the confluence of the Toumbouli-Deressi with the Bardouz-Sou. Beyond this the frontier follows this last-named stream to a point situated at about two verstes distant from Bardouz, gains the mountain in front of Bardouz, as shown on the map, and, by the line of water-parting and of the hills that stretch towards the south, strikes the point (indicated on the map) to the west of Kara-Ourgan, leaving Bardouz and Yeni-Koï to Russia.

The Russian and Ottoman Delegates are bound to conform to the accompanying map during the work of delimitation. The map which indicates the trace of the frontier from the Black Sea to the point to the south of Nariman is drawn on a scale of three Russian verstes to one English inch, or on the natural scale of $\frac{1}{420,000}$. The other part of the frontier has been traced on a map drawn to the scale of two Russian verstes to one English inch, or the natural scale of $\frac{1}{84,000}$. It is understood that the frontier villages shall pass to Russia, and *vice versâ*, with the lands of which the inhabitants are in actual possession, and consequently the frontier as traced on the map is liable to changes on either side, provided that such changes are not in contradiction to the natural frontiers, such as rivers, hills, and the crests of mountains.

It is also understood that the Russian and Ottoman Delegates will not take into consideration lands which are isolated or distant from the frontier.

We here express our personal opinion, and believe that the project for the trace of the frontier as it has been above described, and as we have drawn it on the accompanying map, is in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, provided that it meets with the approbation of our respective Governments.

Constantinople, April $\frac{8}{21}$, 1879.

(Signed) NÉDJIB.
ALY.
FEYZY PASHA.
CHEHAB.
Le Général-Major,
J. STEBNITSKY.
L'Assesseur de Collège,
A. EMÉLIANOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Memorandum submitted to Carathéodory Pasha on the 23rd April, 1879.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, "La nouvelle frontière partant de la Mer Noire conformément à la ligne déterminée par le Traité de San Stéfano jusqu'à un point au nord-ouest de Khorda et au sud d'Artwin, se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière et passe à l'est d'Ashmishen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stéfano à un point au sud de Nariman, en laissant la ville d'Olti à la Russie. Du point indiqué près de Nariman la frontière tourne à l'est, passe par Tebrenec qui reste à la Russie et s'avance jusqu'au Pennek-Tchai. Elle suit cette rivière jusqu'a Bardouz, puis se dirige vus le sud, en laissant Bardouz et Yenikeui à la Russie."

That portion of the frontier delimitated by the Commission, commencing from the Black Sea, and terminating at a point north-west of Khorda and south of Artwin, appears to agree with that defined in the Treaty of San Stefano. After Artwin, Article LVIII stipulates that the frontier "se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière. . . ." Here the Treaty is perfectly clear. The frontier-line is to be traced from the point fixed to the south of Artwin at right angles ("ligne droite") to the general direction of the Tchorokh, and the line thence prolonged to the further or right bank of the river. But the frontier delineated by the Commission shows an important divergence from the terms of the Treaty, as, instead of crossing the river at once, "elle suit la Rivière Sari-sou jusqu'à sa jonction avec la Rivière Milo-sou, traverse cette rivière, et suit la crête. . . ." That is to say, the frontier remains on the left bank of the Tchorokh for a considerable distance.

In the next place the frontier, according to the Treaty of Berlin, "se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière et passe à l'est d'Ashmishen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stéfano à un point au sud de Nariman, en laissant la ville d'Olti à la Russie. . . ." That is to say, that after crossing the River Tchorokh, where the perpendicular line coming from the fixed point south of Artwin intersects the river, the frontier-line should run in a straight line to the fixed point south of Nariman, thus keeping to the east of Aschmishen. But according to the trace of the Commission the River Tchorokh is not crossed until a point near Zor, some 18 kilom. south of the point contemplated in the Treaty, and reaches Nariman by a circuitous bend; the whole of the band of territory included between the frontier so traced and the imaginary straight line lying all to the west, and therefore falling to Russia. In fact, at Olti the frontier-line lies at least 10 kilom. west of the town, for which there can be no reasonable motive.

The Treaty further goes on to say, "Du point près de Nariman la frontière tourne à l'est, passe par Tebrenek. . . ." Now there are two Tebreneks; one (that on Kiepert's map) to the east of Olti, the other to the south-east. The one selected by the Commission is the latter, whilst that which figures on Kiepert's map (the one used at the Berlin Congress) is ignored. Here again the trace of the frontier is favourable to Russia. Bardouz is also left 2½ kilom. to the east of the frontier.

As delineated by the Commission, the frontier is in my opinion given a trace more favourable to Russia along the whole line, and there are no corresponding compensations to Turkey.

As far as I can judge from the maps at my disposal, I consider that there is a loss to Turkey, along the whole line, of, approximately, 250 square kilom.

But the departure from the Treaty of Berlin is, to my mind, the most serious matter, as a question of principle is involved, and I am of opinion that the interpretation by the Commission of the words in Art. LVIII, "se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette riviere, . . . " which seem to me quite plain, is one which was not contemplated by the Signatory Powers.

There is one paragraph in the pièce diplomatique which to me seems objectionable; it is that which runs as follows:—"Les Délégués Russes et Ottomans sont tenus à se conformer à la carte ci-jointe lors des travaux de la Commission." This binds the Commission to accept the map submitted, with all its possible errors: an entirely new map, made by an interested Power. The condition at least should have been inserted that the map is subject to verification on the ground.

No. 33.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 99. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to the despatch of Mr. Sandwith, inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 10th instant, I beg to state that I have learnt from the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, who is intimately acquainted with the proceedings of the Cretan Committee in this country, that, although there is no doubt that, in case of complications arising between this country and Turkey in consequence of the wishes of the Greeks in regard to an extended frontier remaining unsatisfied, efforts would be made to stir up insurrection in Crete, at this moment the Committee is entirely unprovided with funds to do so, and the Government are not in a position to provide them, and without money nothing of importance could be effected.

My Ottoman colleague entirely disbelieves the reported enrolment of volunteers to be employed in Epirus and Thessaly, and, if such a project were entertained, he could hardly be ignorant of it.

Melik Effendi told me that he had heard much dissatisfaction was felt in Crete at the delay shown by the Porte in accepting various measures adopted by the Cretan Assembly, and he told me that, in his opinion, although the inhabitants were quiet at this moment, no concessions made to them by the Porte would prevent them, if opportunity occurred, from breaking out again in insurrection.

I think there is no doubt that it is in the power of this Government to stir up a revolt in the island at any moment they may think it desirable to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 34.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 24, 1879.*

I SPOKE to M. Delyanni yesterday as to the advisability of a direct understanding being come to between this Government and the Porte in regard to the rectification of the frontier, and I mentioned that your Lordship had expressed to the Porte very strongly the advantages of such a course.

M. Delyanni said in answer that he considered that everything that could be done in that direction had been attempted at Prevesa, and the result had been a complete failure: the Greek Government looked entirely to the influence of the Great Powers for the realization of their desires.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 35.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 25, 1879.*

MR. MALET has sent me copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Larissa, in which it is stated on the authority of the Turkish Commander-in-chief that an interpreter of the Hellenic Consulate at Salonica was distributing money to the Christian villages in that neighbourhood, and inviting them to make demonstrations for the annexation of Macedonia to Greece.

I thought it right to mention this report to the President of the Council, in order that the Government might check such proceedings on the part of their agents.

M. Coumoundouros treated the report with ridicule as an invention of the Ottoman authorities, declaring that no agents of the Government had any funds at their disposal for the object mentioned, and even if they wished to stir troubles which was far from their desire, they had not a farthing to spend for such a purpose.

I have also spoken to M. Delyanni on this subject, and he read to me a Report from

the Greek Consul at Salonica, giving an account of the distribution by him to certain Christians, whose property had been destroyed by the Turks during the late insurrection, of a sum of 3,000 francs, which had been sent to him by the Society of the Red Cross of Athens for that purpose, and stating that he had done so with the full consent of the Turkish Civil Governor, who had sent an employé with him on the occasion.

This is evidently what gave rise to the report mentioned by the Commander-in-chief to Mr. Blunt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 36.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the first official meeting this year of the Commission for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia was held on the 21st instant, and beg to inclose a brief summary of the principal points discussed.

I do not anticipate any difficulties being met with on the question of escort, and hope that we shall recommence our labours at an early date.

It was considered desirable to fix the day of departure for the 5th of May, as by then the Russian Delegate will be in a position to furnish the Commission with maps of the country between the Black Sea and the River Tundja.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

Inclosure in No. 36.

EASTERN ROUMELIAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Note of a Meeting held at the Taxim Barracks, Constantinople, April 21, 1879.

Present:

Germany—
Captain Krahmer.
Austria—
Count de Wurmbrand.
France—
Captain Nicolas.
Great Britain—
Major Gordon.
Italy—
Captain Tornaghi.
Russia—
Colonel Philippow.
Turkey—
Colonel Chakir Bey, *President.*

THE German Commissioner proposes to extend the duration of Presidency from eight to fifteen days. After a brief discussion this proposal was unanimously accepted, the period of presidency to commence from the 21st April. On the German Commissioner remarking that he supposes that the Commission has definitely decided to recommence operations from Bourgas, the Russian Commissioner raises the question of escort.

Colonel Chakir Bey states that his Government is of opinion that, Bourgas being at present occupied by the Russian army, the escort to accompany the Commission in that neighbourhood should be Russian, to be exchanged for a Turkish one when the Commission arrives in territory in the occupation of the Turkish army.

The Austrian Commissioner states that his Government holds the same views on the

question of escort, and that the escort should be Russian from Bourgas to Buyuk, Derbend, and Turkish beyond.

Major Gordon proposes that the Commissioners should acquaint their respective Ambassadors of the decision to start this year from Bourgas, and invite them to come to a mutual understanding on the question of escort.

This proposal is accepted.

The Italian Commissioner suggests the advisability of fixing the probable date of departure from Constantinople.

Colonel Philippow reads correspondence and telegrams relative to the Russian Survey of the Frontier. He informs the Commission that a Russian Topographical Survey Officer leaves St. Petersburgh to-morrow, 22nd April, for Constantinople, with maps of the frontier between Bourgas and the Tundja; that it will take him a week to reach Constantinople, and that he will probably require a few days in Constantinople before the maps can be submitted.

After a short discussion, the Commission decides to leave Constantinople by the Russian steamer for Bourgas on Monday the 5th May, and to acquaint their Ambassadors of this decision.

(Signed) F. R. DE WOLSKI, *Lieutenant, R.E., Assistant to Commissioner, Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission.*

No. 37.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 337. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in consequence of the information given to me by Major Clarke, which he telegraphed to your Lordship on the 21st instant, I went yesterday morning with him to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to inform his Excellency of the irregularity which had taken place in carrying the tracing of the new Asiatic frontier beyond Kara-Oughan, at which point it was understood that the participation of the English Commissioner should begin.

His Excellency, who had previously frequently stated to me his anxiety as to the proceedings of the Commission with no English officer at hand to advise, expressed great pleasure at seeing Major Clarke, and showed him all the maps and the only Report which he had hitherto received from the Commission.

Major Clarke pointed out to his Excellency that the whole of the tracing had hitherto been made to the advantage of Russia, and his Excellency requested the Major to furnish him with a confidential Memorandum which would enable him to reply efficaciously to the Report of the Commission. He observed that he had purposely limited the powers of the Turkish Commissioners, as he feared that working alone with the Russians their work would require revision.

He also requested me to address a note to him, requesting that the tracing of the bit beyond Kara-Oughan might be cancelled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 38.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 338.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

MAJOR CLARKE, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier under the Treaty of Berlin, having informed me that, contrary to the understanding which had been come to, the tracing of the frontier had been carried by the Turkish and Russian Commissioners a little beyond Karaoughan, at which point the participation of the English Commissioners ought to begin. I have addressed a note to Carathéodory Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, requesting that the tracing of this piece of frontier may be cancelled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Mr. Malet to Carathéodory Pasha.

Constantinople, April 22, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

AS your Excellency is aware, it has been understood between the Governments of England, Turkey, and Russia that the participation of England in the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, in pursuance of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, should begin at Karaoughan.

I have learnt that a small portion of frontier beyond Karaoughan has been traced previous to the arrival of Major Clarke, Her Majesty's Commissioner. I have, therefore, the honour to request that the tracing may be cancelled in order that the above-mentioned understanding may be in no way infringed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 39.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 339.)

Constantinople, April 23, 1879.

My Lord,

GENERAL HAMLEY, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of Bulgaria, will send your Lordship, by the Queen's Messenger leaving to-day, an account of what passed in the last sitting of the Commission, when he submitted a proposal regarding the principles on which the delimitation should be conducted, and the Turkish Commissioner stated that he had no instructions.

I yesterday brought this statement to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and urged the immediate necessity of the Porte's Commissioner being furnished with instructions, and I submitted to his Excellency the proposal of General Hamley.

His Excellency expressed himself as extremely pleased and grateful at the nature of this proposal, and requested to be allowed to take a copy of it, to which I consented.

It will no doubt form the basis of the instructions to be given to the Ottoman Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 40.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 340.)

Constantinople, April 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Major Gordon, giving a brief summary of the proceedings of the first sitting of the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission, held on the 21st instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Major Gordon to Mr. Malet.

Stafford House, Rue Yaziji, Pera, April 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the first official sitting of the Commission for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia was held yesterday, and give, for your information, a brief summary of the proceedings.

It was considered desirable to recommence work this year on the Black Sea, in the neighbourhood of Bourgas.

The Russian Delegate raised the question of escort, and the Commission considered that an escort would be necessary.

The Turkish Delegate explained that his Government is of opinion that, Bourgas being occupied by a Russian force, the force should be furnished by Russia, and that it should be exchanged for a Turkish one when the Commissioners arrived in that part of the country occupied by the Turkish army.

The Austrian stated that his Government held the same opinion.

The English Delegate proposed that the Commissioners should acquaint their respective Ambassadors of the decisions arrived at to commence operations from the neighbourhood of Bourgas, and request them to come to a mutual understanding as to the question of the escort.

The Italian Delegate considered that the Commission should be in a position to state the probable date of departure from Constantinople.

The Russian Delegate read correspondence relative to the survey already made of the country, and stated that an officer would leave St. Petersburgh on the 22nd instant, bringing with him maps of the country between Bourgas and the Tundja. The journey would take a week to reach Constantinople, and that a few days would be required after to prepare the maps.

After some discussion, it was decided to start for Bourgas by the Russian steamer leaving Constantinople on the 5th May.

As the Commission does not consider itself competent to decide on the question of the escort, I would respectfully hope that you will be pleased to take such steps as you may consider necessary to enable the Commission to recommence its labours early next month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 41.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 341.)

Constantinople, April 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia has been accepted by all the Powers whose Plenipotentiaries signed the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 42.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 342. Secret.)

Constantinople, April 23, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the audience which I had the honour of having of the Sultan on the 21st instant, His Majesty spoke to me with anxiety regarding the negotiations which are going on in England and France for a loan, and, dwelling on the extreme necessities of the Porte, observed that if assistance did not come now it would come too late. I replied that Her Majesty's Government were favourable to the principle of the proposals made by the Ottoman Bank, and would no doubt name Commissioners if the details were arranged to their satisfaction and an understanding were come to on the subject with France, but that I concluded that the consent of certain bondholders was necessary, and that no Government could have the power to persuade creditors to cede against their will rights to which they were entitled. I feared that the events in Egypt had caused the bondholders to pause in their decision, but I thought that the step which had been made towards tranquillity in the signature of the Austrian Convention, if it were accompanied by a persuasion that His Majesty had no intention of making any change in his Ministry, would re-establish the confidence which was necessary to obtain the consent of the bondholders.

His Majesty on this occasion gave me no assurance regarding the stability of the Government, but proceeded to suggest that a loan of 2,000,000*l.* to 2,500,000*l.* might be raised on the revenues of Cyprus, and asked me my opinion on the subject. I said that I did not see how such a loan would be possible, as by the terms of the Convention

we were bound to restore the island in the case of certain eventualities, and that this invalidated the revenues as a security.

His Majesty thereupon remarked that an agreement might be drawn up fixing the tenure of the island for a certain number of years independently of the condition in the Convention, and he begged me to take the matter into consideration in conjunction with his Grand Vizier.

It had been reported to me shortly before I went to the Sultan that His Majesty had recently spoken in very bitter terms of England, moved to it by the want of success in all the endeavours of the Porte to raise money. He had inveighed against England for counselling the Convention with Austria, and had said that, as by doing so we had smoothed the way to the loss of Salonica, he should not be surprised to learn hereafter that England proposed herself to lay hands on Baghdad. A Power which was friendly only in protests was more dangerous than an open foe. If England were really anxious for the maintenance of the Empire she would have assisted it in this financial crisis. Perhaps later, when the last gasp had arrived, she would come forward and then drive terms which were incompatible with the independence of the State.

I pay little attention to reports of this nature which are not authenticated by the name of the person through whom they come. Similar language has previously been attributed to His Majesty, and I cannot but suspect that it has, by order, been conveyed to the Embassy with the object of showing the result of our not enabling the Porte to raise a loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 43.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 343. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

IN continuation of the narrative contained in my despatch No. 325 of the 18th instant of the events previous to the signature of the Austrian Convention, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on reaching the Palace on Friday I was informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that his Excellency had sent a letter to me by a messenger, who had apparently crossed me on the road, to say that the Sultan desired to see me on Monday instead of that afternoon. He gave me as a reason that no decision had been come to regarding the Austrian Convention, as the refusal of the Austrian Ambassador to entertain the new proposal made through me had still to be considered.

On the following morning Count Zichy showed me the note which he had addressed to the Porte, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and in the afternoon he wrote to me to say that the Imperial Iradé authorizing the conclusion of the Convention had been issued, and that the signature was fixed for the next day, Sunday, at 11 o'clock.

On Sunday his Excellency came to me during the afternoon, and informed me that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had received him with visible embarrassment, and after a short time had said that he must see the Grand Vizier before signing. On his return he said that he was desired to desist from signing until he had received a further communication from the Sultan, and he requested the Ambassador to come on the following morning at 11 o'clock. The Ambassador replied that he should not come again until he received an assurance that the Convention would be signed on his arrival. His Excellency was much and justly irritated at what had taken place.

Count Zichy was so good as to come to me again just before dinner to let me know that he was informed that the Minister for Foreign Affairs was now ordered to sign at once, but that, as the hour was too advanced for anything to be done that evening, the signature would no doubt be deferred to the morrow.

I went to the Palace on Monday, and had an audience of the Sultan, when His Majesty informed me that he entertained no doubt but that the Convention was already signed. I observed that Her Majesty's Government had counselled the Sultan to permit the signature because they had felt convinced that it was for the benefit of His Majesty and his Empire, and that, had Her Majesty's Government felt a shadow of doubt on this point, they would certainly not have allowed me to say a word in its favour. His Majesty replied that this statement gave him much satisfaction, as he had permitted the

signature to take place in consequence of the urgent manner in which England had recommended it.

I found waiting for me at home a letter from M. Kosjek, First Secretary of the Austrian Embassy, informing me that the Convention had been signed at 4 o'clock, and I immediately conveyed the news to your Lordship by telegraph.

The Austrian Ambassador has been to me this morning to express to me his sincere thanks to Her Majesty's Government for the assistance which they have afforded. He assured me that if anything was wanting to cement the alliance between the two nations, the continual and efficacious efforts which have been made by Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople to obtain the signature of the Treaty must complete it.

I requested his Excellency to let me have a copy of the Convention, to send by to-day's mail to your Lordship, but his Excellency said that his own Government was not yet in possession of it; that he proposed to carry it himself to Vienna, and should start for that purpose on Friday next, on which day he would send me a copy if I would undertake not to transmit its contents by telegraph, as it was of the utmost importance to himself that it should not be known before he had been able to submit it to his Government and to accompany it with his own verbal explanations.

He informed me that on the day of the signature he had been requested to guarantee that the occupation of the points decided on in the Province of Novi-Bazar should not take place for two months, and his Excellency had given a verbal assurance to this effect, the ostensible object being to give the Turkish Government time to prepare public opinion in the province, and so to secure the entry of the Austrians without disorder.

I beg to thank your Lordship very sincerely for the approval which you have been so good as to convey to me by telegraph of the part I have taken in these negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Count Zichy to Carathéodory Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, le 19 Avril, 1879.*

J'AI l'honneur de prévenir son Excellence que je viens de recevoir un télégramme de mon Gouvernement par lequel des instructions ultérieures me sont annoncées sur l'attitude que j'aurai à prendre.

En attendant je suis déjà autorisé à déclarer que si les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ajournaient encore la signature de la Convention par manque d'autorisation, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal après un procédé pareil n'entrerait plus en négociations au sujet d'une Convention, mais il réglerait l'état des choses dans ces provinces exclusivement d'après ses intérêts. Dans ce cas le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie constaterait en même temps que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'est refusée à mettre en exécution l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin.

Il s'en suivrait en outre que nous aussi nous serions entièrement dégagés de toute obligation relative à cette stipulation vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte, et que nous nous réserverions une pleine liberté d'action pour faire valoir nos droits et nos intérêts au moment voulu et exclusivement après nos appréciations.

Agréez, &c.

No. 44.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 344.)
My Lord, *Pera, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a Convention between the Porte and Austria-Hungary to regulate the occupation and administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and the garrisoning of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar in execution of the XXVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, was signed at the Porte on Monday the 20th instant at 4 o'clock.

The Plenipotentiaries for the Porte were Alexander Carathéodory Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Murif Effendi, Minister of Public Instruction; those for Austria-

Hungary being Count Zichy, Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, and M. de Kosjeh, First Secretary of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 45.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 346.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest, in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Larissa and Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Larissa, April 3, 1879.*

HAVING heard that the Governor-General of Salonica had recently informed the Commander-in-chief here that the inhabitants of Caraferia were very much alarmed, and preparing to abandon their homes in consequence of the general insecurity prevailing in that district, I telegraphed to Colonel Synge, who is in the vicinity of Caraferia, to make inquiries into the state of affairs there; and I now have the honour to forward to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, a copy of his Report on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Caraferia, March 25, 1879.*

CONFIRMING my telegram dated Caraferia, the 24th March, 1879, I have the honour to inform you that, on receipt of your telegram dated Larissa, the 22nd March, I visited Caraferia, and without stating the object called on the Bishop and the leading citizens, as also on the Kaïmakam and the officer in temporary command of the troops; Abdullah Pasha, commanding the district, being absent at Catterina. I could hear nothing of the implications contained in your telegram, nor does there appear to be any disquiet or fear among the inhabitants of Caraferia, although brigands are numerous in the caza, more especially on the south side of the Indjeh-Kara-Sou, mostly natives of the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY SYNGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Larissa, April 3, 1879.*

ON the 31st ultimo I received the following telegram from Mr. Routh, a British subject established at Salonica as agent of Messrs. Charles Hanson and Co., of Constantinople:—

"Deux de nos employés pris par brigands près Catterina. Intervenez auprès Muchir pour envoi ordres sévères aux Commandants pour leur délivrance et sauvegarde intérêts Anglais."

I at once communicated with the Commander-in-chief, and got him to telegraph the most stringent orders to the military authorities at Catterina, with a view to effect

the release of the two hostages, and I subsequently addressed the following message to Mr. Consul Barker:—

"Tell Mr. Routh orders have been telegraphed to Catterina. Ask him to telegraph me names and nationality of the two hostages, and whose interests are involved in the matter."

Mr. Barker's answer to the above message reached me yesterday evening, and is worded thus:—

"Routh says that the men have telegraphed from Catterina that they have been set at liberty."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 45.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Larissa, April 8, 1879.*

THE Commander-in-chief here has received telegraphic reports from the military authorities at Caraferia and Catterina, stating that one of the interpreters of the Hellenic Consulate at Salonica is now making the round of the Christian villages in those districts, distributing money to the peasants, and inciting them to make demonstrations for the annexation of Macedonia to Greece.

I shall call Colonel Synge's attention to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 45.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Adrianople, April 17, 1879.*

AS it can scarcely be necessary to multiply instances of the barbarous treatment to which the Mussulman population of the districts occupied by the Russian army are subjected at the hands of the Bulgarians, I shall confine the present Report to an examination of the truth of various cases in point.

I propose to accomplish this task in part by comparing the statements of those cases, as made by the original Turkish informants, with those which have been communicated to me from an independent and reliable Bulgarian source, and in part through ocular testimony of the bodily injuries suffered.

I may take this opportunity to mention (which I could not conveniently do at the time) that some of the worst matters of the kind reported by me during the Russian occupation of Adrianople were given on the authority of a Bulgarian who was, so far from being prejudiced in favour of the Turks, that, whilst expressing his abhorrence at the misdeeds of his fellow-countrymen, he plainly declared to me that he was, as a Bulgarian patriot, "a hater of Turkish rule." Among the cases reported to me by this person I may instance the shocking oppression of the Turks of Souflar, held to labour by Bulgarians armed with whips, as reported in my despatch of the 16th October last.

Dévédji-Khalfa-Kioï.—The occurrences at this place, as stated by a Turkish fugitive, were referred to in my despatch of the 25th ultimo. All the inhabitants being now at Adrianople, I have learnt from them further particulars of the matter, with its sequel. These agree in all essential points with the version given by my Bulgarian informant, namely, that the whole Turkish population of the village, consisting of forty-six families, was shut up during four days in a straw-barn, for the purpose of extortion, by means of starvation and threats of burning them alive. The Bulgarians concerned in this affair were those of Dévédji-Khalfa-Kioï itself, afterwards joined by others from Koormatchli, Kyzildjikli, Karibtcha, and Guvenli. The Bulgarian informant specifically tells me that the Bulgars said to the Turks, "We will soak you with petroleum, and set you on fire." He understood that they had been kept during the whole period without food or water, but the Turks mention with gratitude a humble peasant, named Staïcho, through whose intercession their sufferings were at last relieved by some scanty supplies of both. They were finally rescued by a sergeant of gendarmerie, who came from Kavakli on hearing of the matter. Only one of the men implicated, an inhabitant of Koormatchli, was

arrested. He was brought to Kavakli, but set free after being made to forfeit his revolver and double-barrelled gun. The Turks were meanwhile allowed to leave the village, which they did on foot, and not until they had been thoroughly despoiled.

They further relate that, on passing through Buynk-Monastir, an old man named Omeroglu Rustem, once well-to-do, and who was suspected of having buried his money, was hung up by the arms and pricked with knives to make him reveal the spot. By these means they extorted from him 6 liras, which he had concealed in his shoes.

Sadykli.—I have already stated in my despatch of the 7th instant that the Bulgarian informant heard nothing regarding the crimes at this place referred to in a preceding Report. The statements made by the inhabitants of Sadykli, who have likewise emigrated here in a body, seem, however, sufficiently to account for this, for they relate that, when the authorities at Harmanli instituted an inquiry into the matters in question, the relatives of the victims were intimidated by the Bulgarians into declaring that those matters had been arranged to their satisfaction. As the facts present some new features, I subjoin a summary of the detailed narratives of the villagers, who have given in each case the names of the authors of the crimes.

1. A Bulgarian from Kyzildjikli, about a month ago, sought a young Turkish girl for the purpose of violating her. The girl's aunt, with whom she was living, conveyed her away secretly to the house of a Bulgarian priest, where she found a safe asylum. The would-be ravisher vented his disappointment by shooting the woman dead. The Bulgarian inhabitants of Kyzildjikli subscribed the sum of 100 piastres (14*s.*) as compensation to the husband, one Hadji Kodoglu, and he had no resource but to let the matter drop.

2. A Turk, named Youssufoglu Salih, who died a refugee at Constantinople, owed some money to three Bulgarians of Kyzildjikli. These men, six or seven weeks ago, endeavoured to extort payment from the widow, a woman aged 30, by beating her murderously. The poor woman was destitute, but her tormentors were inexorable, and went on inflicting blow upon blow in turn till she died.

3. A similar fate was met a week or two earlier by Youssufoglu Mustafa, aged 60 years, elder brother of the husband of the woman just mentioned. His creditor and executioner was a Bulgarian "Tchorbadji" of Koyounli.

4. Husseïndjikoglu Ahmed, aged 20, was also beaten to death by two Bulgarian creditors of Kyzildjikli, whom he was unable to satisfy.

5. Salihoglu Osman, aged 18, had his arm broken by a Bulgarian of Kyzildjikli, to whom he owed money.

The cruelty of the above cases is aggravated by the fact that the different sums claimed were advanced on the forthcoming crops, which were, as usual, confiscated from the Turkish owners. Only in the last-mentioned instance was the offender arrested. He was still in prison at Harmanli when the villagers came away.

Sarhanli.—The Turkish statements contained in my despatch of the 25th ultimo, regarding the torture of a Mussulman notable and his wife at this place, are confirmed by my Bulgarian informant (who visited Sarhanli on the 27th ultimo) in all but the maltreatment of the child of the couple, whom he did not hear mentioned. He learnt that heated trevets were applied to the necks, feet, and abdomens of the man and woman, and that they were stabbed (not shot) in the arms and legs. A sergeant of gendarmerie came next morning from Koyounli, and he was followed by the Sub-Governor of Harmanli, who caused nine Bulgarians to be arrested on the depositions of the victims. They were still in prison a week after the crime, but the Bulgarians of Sarhanli and the neighbouring villages were making great efforts to procure their release on the plea that the victims had falsely accused them.

The Bulgarian informant reports that both the injured man and his wife, who were taken to Harmanli, died there a few days afterwards.

Ali-Obassi.—This is the place referred to in my despatch of the 13th ultimo under the corrupted form of "Aleposun." It is a mixed village, about four hours from Yeni-Zaghra. The account therein given on the hearsay report of fugitives from other villages, of cases of torture and mutilation at that place, proves to have been exaggerated, although the real facts were bad enough as they stood.

I may here remark that whilst I have, as a rule, found the statements made by Turkish eye-witnesses, and, in a somewhat less degree, that of the inhabitants generally of a village where occurrences have taken place, to stand the test of cross-examination and to prove truthful where proof is possible, the same cannot be said of reports carried (as in this instance) from mouth to mouth at a distance from the scene of such occurrences. But a Turkish peasant never wholly invents facts.

The victims of the misdeeds in question being now at Adrianople, I have been able

to hear their own account of the matter, which is borne out by the unhealed wounds and marks of barbarous treatment which they bear—Selimoglu Ismaïl, aged 65, in the loss of the top joint of his forefinger and in his nearly severed thumb; and especially in a scar which encircles the crown of his head, showing where a heated trevet was placed. His son Husseïn, a fine young man, aged 20, is disfigured by a fearful gash which has laid open the whole breadth of his cheek. His wrist, too, was badly cut, and scars are visible on the nape of his neck, where, as he states, a heated kitchen-chain was applied. The mother, however, having produced what money she had the miscreants desisted before the torture of father and son had proceeded far. These atrocities were perpetrated by a party of Bulgarians from Keurtué and Atlar.

It is satisfactory to know that in this instance the authorities at Yeni-Zaghra showed sympathy with the sufferers and had their wounds dressed. They arrested three suspected Bulgarians a fortnight after the occurrence, and these were still in prison when the informants left. The latter were not, however, confronted with the prisoners.

A still worse case of torture by fire of more recent occurrence at the same village has since been reported to me, also by the sufferer himself. The statement of this man, Husseïnoglu Mustafa, aged 66, is borne out by the inclosed Report, signed by three medical men who examined his hurts at my request. Once well-to-do, he was, he relates, despoiled of the remainder of his property on returning to the village last summer, and his house having been appropriated by Bulgarians he and his family were compelled to live in a straw barn.

At midnight, on the 14th ultimo, a party of eight Bulgarians, whom he had no opportunity of recognizing, burst into this place, struck him on the lower part of his back with the back of a hatchet, enveloped his head with a coverlet, and treading on his neck, demanded his money. The unfortunate man had but 5 piastres, the balance of 9 piastres which he had obtained by the sale of a shirt; but they would not believe him, and, tying his hands behind his back, proceeded to heat on the fire a chain used for hanging pots in the chimney. This they passed three times round his body, whose horrible appearance is described in the medical report. Convinced at last that their victim really possessed nothing, they, in their rage, dragged him to the door by a cord, which they had put round his neck, saying they would hang him. They finally desisted from this course; but they did not leave the place till they had beaten the young grand-children of the victim, and so brutally kicked their two mothers, as they stooped over the smaller ones to save them from the same treatment, that one of the women, Hadidjé, aged 25, died from the effects four days afterwards.

The authorities at Yeni-Zaghra took the same (ineffectual) steps in this case as in the preceding one. The three arrested Bulgarians are supposed to have been concerned in both.

Another case of torture at Tchoutré, a mixed village, one hour from Slimnia, has been reported to me by the sufferer, a woman, named Aïshé, 25 years of age, the wife Khalil, a soldier. It occurred about the same time as the above case. Her tormentors began by pricking her arms with a yatagan. After obtaining from her by these means all she had, they, in the hope of extorting more, proceeded to partially strangle her, and, lastly, heated an iron pan on the fire and applied it to her limbs. A severe burn, which she showed me, on her left arm, is not yet healed. The miscreants also wrenched the arm of her child, aged 4 years, to make it declare where the supposed valuables were concealed.

A Bulgarian captain of gendarmerie, who was accompanied by a doctor, came from Slimnia next day to inquire into this crime, and several other similar ones which were committed the same night by the same band. It consisted of four Bulgarians of the same village, notoriously bad characters; but as they had threatened the victims with their vengeance if they, the perpetrators, were denounced, the sufferers deemed it prudent not to divulge their names.

The only redeeming feature of the above cases is the action of the Russo-Bulgarian police, some incipient signs of which are at length discernible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 45.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Mulet.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Adrianople, April* 21, 1879.

THE Reverend Mr. Rosenberg, a Scottish missionary established here, who returned a few days ago from a short visit to Philippopolis, informs me confidentially that some of the leading Bulgarians there mentioned to him in the course of conversation a plan whereby the Eastern Roumelian difficulty might, in their opinion, be settled to the mutual satisfaction of the Porte and the Bulgarians.

That plan consists of the union of Eastern Roumelia to Bulgaria, and the acknowledgment of the Sultan as King of the whole State, in the same way that the Emperor of Austria is King of Hungary.

Mr. Rosenberg's interlocutors remarked that such a plan would probably be distasteful to Russia; but, they added, whatever the feelings of the Bulgarian people might be towards Turkey, they had not learnt to prefer the Russians; and if the idea in question were realized under conditions of *bond fide* national unity and autonomy, the Bulgarians would, they said, willingly withdraw themselves from the heavy hand of their present protectors, and look towards their titular Sovereign as the personification of their liberties.

Whatever may be the merits of this suggestion, or the influence of those who put it forward, Réouf Pasha, to whom it was repeated by Mr. Rosenberg, appears to have been greatly struck by it, and his Excellency declared he would at once communicate it to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 45.

Medical Report.

NOUS, Soussignés, docteurs en médecine, résidant à Andrinople, sur l'invitation de Mr. Calvert, Gérant-Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique, nous sommes rendus au Consulat Anglais pour visiter un villageois Turc, nommé Mustafa Husseïnoglu, âgé de 66 ans, natif du village d'Ali-obassi, situé à une distance de quatre heures de Yéni-Zaghra, qui nous a raconté ce qui suit:—

Le 14 Mars dernier vers minuit huit Bulgares s'étaient introduits dans sa maison pour enlever l'argent dont ils le croyaient être possesseur. Le vieillard assurant qu'il n'avait rien les malfaiteurs lui ont porté sur le dos un coup de hache de revers, ce qui l'étourdit et le fit tomber par terre. Ils ont alors rougi au feu une chaîne qui pendait dans la cheminée, et l'appliquèrent sur son corps nu, en la promenant autour de ses lombes.

Dans notre examen médicale nous avons trouvé:—

1. Sur les lombes du côté droit et sur le bas-ventre des cicatrices nombreuses longues de 40 et larges de 15 centimètres, causées par l'application d'un corps en ignition.

2. Sur la partie inférieure des fesses des cicatrices semblables longues de 6 et larges de 4 centimètres.

3. De petites cicatrices de brûlures sur l'avant-bras droit.

4. Des traces de contusions à gauche de la colonne vertébrale sur la région dorsale.

De ce qui précède nous concluons que le nommé Mustafa Husseïnoglu fut maltraité, et que les cicatrices ci-dessus désignées, vu leur forme, leur étendue, et leur siége relatif, proviennent d'un corps en ignition et formé en chaîne.

En foi de quoi nous avons délivré le présent certificat pour servir et valoir ce que de raison.

Andrinople, le 8 *Avril*, 1879.

(Signé) J. JACZYNSKI, *Médecin et Chirurgien Pratique.*
Dr. HER. ARGYRIADES.
Dr. G. X. CARAPANAYOTTI.

No. 46.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 172. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 22, 1879.

I HAD the honour of an audience of His Majesty the Sultan on Saturday.

There had previously been held a Council which had lasted thirty-six hours. I was much struck by the appearance of His Imperial Majesty, who, since I had the honour of seeing him before going to Philippopolis, has become aged, careworn, and jaded.

His Majesty, after inquiring very particularly for Lord Donoughmore, and sending him kind messages, told me that he was constantly thinking of the difficulties attending the return of his troops into Eastern Roumelia, and desired my opinion on the subject.

I told His Majesty that I had always expressed myself in favour of the mixed occupation, notwithstanding the difficulties with which it would necessarily be surrounded.

I considered it of the first importance that the restoration of His Majesty's authority should take place as peaceably as possible, and I believed, if this could be effected, and if the Statute drawn up by the Commission could be put into operation, the Bulgarians would, in time, be satisfied by its provisions. The first thing essential was to set it in motion without bloodshed. It was far more economical than the system proposed for Bulgaria, and, in this respect, would perhaps find favour with the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia.

His Majesty then went on to say that Reouf Pasha had recommended that the defence of the Balkans should be left to the local militia, and that the Governor should be installed accompanied by the European Commission alone. His Majesty asked my opinion on this point. I replied very guardedly, not wishing to run counter to any advice given to His Majesty from any other quarter. I answered vaguely that I considered the first point to be looked to was the establishment of the order of things as created by the Statute, and this in a manner as peaceful and conciliatory as possible. His Majesty asked me, before leaving Constantinople, to place on paper unofficially my views on the subject, and to wait on His Majesty again before my departure.

I think it well here to lay before your Lordship my views on the present situation of affairs as regards Eastern Roumelia. It is always dangerous to hazard an opinion on the future, and I do so with misgiving. But I cannot but think that recent events have considerably altered the relative position of the three parties most interested, viz., Turkey, Russia, and the Bulgarians.

With regard to the first, it is impossible to hide their weakness; with armies occupied up to this moment in watching Austria and Greece, it is doubtful if they could afford troops in numbers sufficient to overawe opposition in the province without unduly weakening the garrisons necessary for the defence of the capital.

Could troops be spared in sufficient numbers, money is absolutely wanting to supply them with transport to the Balkans, and, when there, with proper shelter and supplies.

As to Russia, so far as I can learn, the recent attack on the Emperor renders her more desirous than before to find a means of withdrawing her army from Turkish territory without the risk of complications entailing on her part the necessity of immediate action, and at the same time without destroying her prestige among the Bulgarians. In this last view she is supported by some of the neutral Powers, by the language of the French Commissioners, by the jealousies of Italy, and the ostentatious indifference of Germany.

The tendencies of the Bulgarians are not, I think, in the direction of abject submission to Russia. Their national aspirations are of a material rather than an ornamental character. The recent decisions of the Assembly at Tirnovo have shown the democratic substratum of their politics, and they fear both the financial disorder, the despotic principle, and the spirit of adventure of the Russian administration. Between Russians and Bulgarians personally there is no love lost. The Russians despise the Bulgarians, and lose no opportunity of showing their contempt. They found the Bulgarian peasant far better off than the Russian peasant, and they complain of fighting to obtain for Bulgarians privileges not accorded to their own fellow-countrymen. When General Stolipine is angry with a Bulgarian functionary or patriot he gives him a box on the ears, and the Russian sergeants who drill the gymnastic societies hustle and push the Bulgarian notables much as they would handle Russian recruits, and treat them to the same language. The Bulgarians, I believe, long for the Russian evacuation, and if secured against Turkish misrule will, I hope, become a quiet people. They are a most uninteresting race, anxious to make money, and, on the whole, rich. I am told that a Bulgarian peasant has often been known, though living in squalor, to produce a considerable sum of money wherewith to buy buffaloes or to marry his daughter.

The proceedings at Tirnovo very much bear out the assertions made to me by M. Rainoff, as reported in my despatch No. 129 of the 23rd November last, and learn that at Slivno many of the leading Bulgarians are distinctly hostile both to the Russian Emperor and to his army. M. de Coutouly has assured me that at a private supper at Slivno he proposed a toast to the Russian Emperor and army, and that educated Bulgarians present refused to drink to it. They also told him that as soon as the Russians left they could inform him of financial scandals to which the Dondoukoff-Maréchal contract was a trifle. The attack on the Emperor, the disturbances at Rostoff, and the many incidents that have recently been made public in Russia, must have put the Bulgarians on their guard against proceedings which might end in subjection to Russia.

But the solution of the problem of European Turkey lies not only in the exclusion of Russia, but in the good government of the different races and provinces. This cannot be effected without the free admission of the subject races to an ample participation in the Government. Heretofore the Turks have provided shepherds for Christian sheep. The supply of shepherds has dried up. At the present moment the two most prominent places in the Government are filled by a Tunisian and a Greek. It would be difficult to find substitutes for these two statesmen.

At the beginning of this century, and even in my recollection, Constantinople was scarcely nearer to Europe morally and materially than in the time of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. But railway and steamers have brought European Turkey within the circle of European ideas. Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians, and even Turks, are educated in Western countries, and the security of Turkish rule rests on conformity with European principles of government. It is impossible to reproduce the ancient order of things. The only chance for the continuance of Turkish rule in Europe is shadowed out in Article XIII of the Treaty of Berlin, by which Eastern Roumelia "will remain under the direct political and military authority of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, under conditions of administrative autonomy."

By Article XXIII of the same instrument, new Statutes are to be introduced into the other parts of European Turkey, with the advice of the Commission formed for Eastern Roumelia. If, as I understand, the Porte will apply to the other European provinces, *mutatis mutandis*, the Statute drawn up for Eastern Roumelia, she will take what I believe to be the only course consistent with the consolidation of her rule on a sound basis.

It is unnecessary, and would, I believe, be mischievous to discuss the different projects so often mooted as possible in case of the relinquishment by the Turks of their European possessions.

The federation of Slav Principalities or Republics, the preponderance of Austria, the erection of Constantinople into a free city, or the revival of a Byzantine Empire, are topics for academical and not practical discussion. It is, I believe, for the convenience and advantage of Europe that the Turkish Empire should not be broken up. The object for which Great Britain has striven has been the maintenance of that Empire, combined with a just consideration of the races subject to her control. The Treaty of Paris in 1856 established this principle. The English Ministers in whose time that Treaty was signed trusted for the introduction of reforms to the eminent men who then governed the destinies of Turkey. That race of rulers has disappeared. They left no disciples to replace them. The principle advocated by Her Majesty's present Government has been to continue the Ottoman rule in Europe, but to render the fortunes of the Christian races independent of the individuality of Turkish statesmen.

As soon as the Statute prepared by the European Commission has been definitively settled, which I hope will be the case this week, I will venture to submit to your Lordship some remarks, showing how far the principles laid down by Her Majesty's Government have been carried out in the forms which I proposed at the outset.

However defective may be the Statute, I sincerely believe it contains the bases of a good administration. If the central Government will be content with a regular and progressive revenue, and a firm control over the external relations of her provinces, whether military or diplomatic, the Porte may render her heterogeneous subjects content and loyal, while occupied in maintaining internal order, and quietly developing the natural resources of the country under a self-acting system.

It will, perhaps, not be irrelevant for me here to say a few words on the continuation of the Commission.

I have had several conversations on this subject with M. de Kallay, and while we are both willingly at the disposal of our Governments for any length of time during which our services may be deemed necessary, there are certain considerations which make us think the continuation should not be too long protracted. While we recognize the expediency, and perhaps the necessity, of our installing the Governor-General, we think that the

interpretation of the Statute had better be left to other hands than those which prepared it.

The Statute has been the result, in a great measure, of "transaction" and compromise. It has given rise on many occasions to animated and perhaps heated discussion, which may be renewed when the application of its provisions has to be debated.

Besides this, the continuance of the original Commission contemporaneously with the Governor's administrators, the Provincial Assembly, and the Permanent Committee, might produce collisions it is desirable to avoid with one or more of these bodies, if not with the Governor-General himself.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that we should be withdrawn, either after the installation of the Governor-General and his administrators, or, at latest, after the election of the first Assembly.

I understand that in 1860-61, when Lord Dufferin was Commissioner in Syria, he was withdrawn after the "Règlement" was settled, and the execution of details was left to Colonel Fraser, who had been with him as Military Commissioner.

Perhaps your Lordship might think it well, at either of the two periods I have mentioned, to withdraw Lord Donoughmore and myself, and to leave any functions necessary for the further execution of the project to Mr. Michell, or any one else your Lordship might appoint for the purpose. For these duties a letter of appointment, signed by your Lordship, would probably be sufficient. None of the Commissioners but the French and ourselves have any power beyond a letter signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Ambassador at Constantinople.

I also ventured to suggest by telegraph that, if the Commission is to be continued for a year, the arrangement should be made renewable for periods of three months. In this manner, if considered advisable, the Commission could be withdrawn at the expiration of any of these periods, without fresh arrangements giving, perhaps, occasion for comment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 47.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

I LEARN from Lord Donoughmore and other sources that the Russian authorities are taking steps for the retention of Colonel Kissiakoff as Commandant of the Militia.

Prince Tzeretelew made a motion at our last official sitting on the subject of salaries for militia officers during the period of transition. It was supported by the French Commissioners, but resisted by M. de Kallay. I suggested that as the appointment of the militia officers concerned the Sultan, the Ottoman Commissioners should bring the question, started by Prince Tzeretelew, before the Porte, the only authority competent to decide it.

This view was adopted by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 48.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose single copies of Protocols Nos. 58 and 59, the remainder not having yet been distributed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Protocole No. 58.—Séance du $\frac{14}{26}$ *Mars*, 1879 (3 *Rébi-ul-Akhir*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. le Baron de Ring.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pasha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

M. de Kallay dit qu'il a l'intention de soumettre à la Commission au cours de la séance une série de propositions concernant ceux des Articles de différents Chapitres du Statut Organique déjà votés, qui sont restés ouverts. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie prie la Commission de vouloir bien examiner ses propositions d'urgence.

La Commission décide que les propositions de M. de Kallay seront discutées à la fin de la séance.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur les Tableaux et règlements annexés aux Chapitres XII et XIII: "Milice Locale et Gendarmerie," déposés à la cinquante-troisième séance.

Après un échange d'idées entre tous les Commissaires, ces Tableaux et règlements sont adoptés dans la forme suivante:—

Annexes aux Articles 42 et 44 du Chapitre XII.

Tableau (A).—Composition d'un Bataillon de Milice du Premier Ban.

Pied de Guerre.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
Etat-Major du Bataillon.		
(r) Capitaine ou officier supérieur commandant	1	1
(r) Lieutenant Adjudant-Major	1	1
Officier Payeur	1	..
Médecin	1	1
Total des Officiers	4	3
Petit Etat-Major.		
Sergent-Major Vaguemestre	1	..
(r) Sergent-Secrétaire	1	..
(r) Chef Armurier	1	..
(r) Caporal Clairon	1	1
(r) Ouvriers Armuriers	2	..
Caporal Muletier	1	..
Soldats Muletiers	28	..
Chevaux ou mulets	..	56
Total des hommes de troupe	35	57
Compagnies (4).		
Capitaines	4	4
Lieutenants	8	..
Sous-Lieutenants	8	..
Total des officiers	20	4
Sergents-Majors	4	..
Sergents (dont 4 fourriers)	36	..
Caporaux	64	..
Clairons	16	..
Soldats de 1ère et 2me classe	832	..
Total des hommes de troupe	952	..
Etat-Major du Dépôt.		
(r) Capitaine de la Compagnie présente, commandant par *intérim* le district et le dépôt	1	1
(r) Officier chargé de l'administration	1	..
(r) Sergent Secrétaire	1	..
(r) Soldats Secrétaires	2	..
(r) Ouvriers	3	..
	8	1
Section de Dépôt:		
Lieutenant	1	..
Sous-Lieutenant	2	..
	3	..
(r) Sergent-Major	1	..
(r) Sergents (dont 1 fourrier)	5	..
(r) Caporaux	8	..
(r) Clairons	2	..
Soldats (minimum)	104	..

Nota.—La lettre (r) désigne les officiers et les hommes de troupe appartenant au cadre permanent.

Les officiers et soldats de la compagnie présente, à l'exception du Capitaine qui commande le dépôt, peuvent être versés dans les compagnies du bataillon actif.

Récapitulation de l'Effectif d'un Bataillon de Milice du Premier Ban.

Pied de Guerre.

	Officiers.	Sous-Officiers.	Clairons.	Caporaux et Soldats.	Muletiers.	Chevaux et Mulets.
Bataillon Actif.						
État-Major	4	..	..	..	..	3
Petit État-Major	..	4	..	2	29	57
Quatre Compagnies	20	40	1	896	..	4
	— 24	— 44	16 — 17	— 898	— 29	— 64
Dépôt.						
État-Major	2	1		5	..	1
Section	3	6	..	112	..	..
	— 5	— 7	2	— 117	—	— 1
Total général	29	51	19	1,015	29	65
		1,114 hommes.				

Observation.—Le bataillon de milice du deuxième ban a une composition identique à celle du bataillon du premier ban ; il n'a pas de section de dépôt.

En cas de mobilisation générale, les hommes en excédant du bataillon du deuxième ban sont versés au dépôt du premier ban ; la section de dépôt est alors doublée.

Tableau (B).—Composition du Cadre du Bataillon-École.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
État-Major du Bataillon.		
Officier Supérieur ou Capitaine	1	1
Lieutenant Adjudant-Major	1	1
Lieutenant Chargé de l'Administration	1	..
Officiers	3	2
Petit État-Major.		
Sergent-Major de Bataillon	1	..
Sergent-Secrétaire	1	..
Maître tailleur (sous-officier ou caporal)	1	..
Maître cordonnier „	1	..
Caporal clairon	1	..
Ouvriers-tailleurs (minimum)	4	..
Ouvriers-cordonniers „	4	..
Hommes de troupe	13	..
Cadre de Compagnie d'Infanterie.		
Capitaine	1	1
Lieutenant	1	..
Sous-Lieutenants	2	..
Officiers	4	1
Sergent-Major	1	..
Sergents (dont 1 fourrier)	5	..
Caporaux	8	..
Clairons	2	..
Hommes de troupe	16	..
Soldats de 1ère et de 2me classe—		
Minimum	50	..
Maximum	208	..

Nota.—Si le nombre des soldats des compagnies du Bataillon-École dépasse 100 hommes par compagnie, le nombre des sous-officiers et caporaux devra être augmenté proportionnellement.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
Cadre de l'Escadron de Cavalerie.		
Capitaine Commandant	1	1
Lieutenant	1	1
Sous-Lieutenants	2	2
Total des Officiers	4	4
Maréchal-des-Logis Chef	1	1
Maréchaux-des-Logis (dont 1 Fourrier)	7	7
Brigadiers	12	12
Trompettes	2	2
Brigadier Maréchal-Ferrant	1	1
Maréchaux-Ferrants	2	2
Brigadier sellier	1	..
Ouvriers selliers	2	..
Total des hommes de troupe	28	25
Cavaliers—		
Minimum	80	80
Maximum	130	..
Cadre de la Division d'Artillerie.		
Capitaine commandant la demi batterie d'artillerie et la section d'ouvriers	1	1
Lieutenants (dont un Inspecteur des Ateliers)	2	1
Sous-Lieutenants	2	1
Total des officiers	5	3
Maréchal-des-Logis Chef	1	1
Maréchaux-des-Logis (dont 1 Fourrier)	5	5
Brigadiers	6	6
Trompettes	2	2
Brigadier Maréchal-Ferrant	1	1
Brigadier sellier harnacheur	1	..
Maréchaux-Ferrants	2	2
Ouvriers selliers	2	..
Total des hommes de troupe	20	17
Soldats—		
Conducteurs (minimum)	20	50
Canonniers „	24	
Section d'Ouvriers d'Artillerie.		
Sergent-Major Chef Artificier (*)	1	..
Artificiers de 1ère Classe (Sergents) (*)	4	..
Artificiers de 2me Classe (Caporaux)	8	..
Elèves artificiers (minimum)	20	..
	33	
Sergent-Major Chef Armurier (*)	1	..
Armuriers de 1ère Classe (Sergents) (*)	6	..
Armuriers de 2me Classe (Caporaux)	12	..
Elèves armuriers (minimum)	30	..
	49	
		82
Cadre de la Compagnie Technique.		
Capitaine Commandant	1	1
Lieutenant, Chef de la Section du Génie	1	..
Lieutenant, Chef de la Section d'Ouvriers Constructeurs (*)	1	..
Sous-Lieutenants	2	..
Officiers	5	1
Sergent-Major de Compagnie	1	..
Sergent Garde-Magasin	1	..
Caporal ou Sergent-Fourrier	1	..
Clairons	3	..
Hommes de troupe	6	1

Nota.—Les fonctions marquées d'un astérisque peuvent, à défaut de candidats militaires, être remplies par des employés civils, indigènes ou étrangers.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
Section du Génie.		
Sergent-Major Instructeur (*)	1	..
Sergents	3	..
Caporaux	6	..
	10	..
Soldats (minimum)	40	..
Section d'Ouvriers Constructeurs.		
Sergent-Major d'Atelier	1	..
Sergent ou Sergent-Major Chef Mécanicien (*)	1	..
Sergents Chefs ouvriers	3	..
Ouvriers du 1ère Classe (Caporaux)	8	..
	13	..
Soldats ouvriers (minimum)	40	..

Nota.—Les fonctions marquées d'un astérisque peuvent, à défaut de candidats militaires, être remplies par des employés civils, indigènes ou étrangers.

RÉCAPITULATION du Cadre du Bataillon-École.

	Officiers.	Sous-Officiers.	Caporaux.	Clairons et Trompette	Chevaux.	Soldats. (minimum.)
1. État-Major de Bataillon* ..	3	4	1	..	2	8
2. Infanterie (2 compagnies) ..	8	12	16	4	2	108
3. Cavalerie (1 escadron)	4	8	14	4	101	84
4. Artillerie—						
Demi-Batterie	3	6	8	2	70	48
Section d'Armuriers	1	5	8	..	..	20
Section d'Artificiers	1	7	12	..	..	30
5. Compagnie Technique—						
État-Major	1	3	..	3	1	..
Section du Génie	2	4	6	..	..	40
Section d'Ouvriers Constructeurs	2	5	8	..	..	40
	25	54	73	13	176	384
		140				378
		518 hommes.				

* Il peut être formé au Bataillon-Ecole une fanfare ou musique, composée, soit d'hommes appartenant au cadre normal du bataillon, soit d'engagés volontaires portés en excédant de l'effectif sus-indiqué; dans ce cas, l'Etat-Major sera augmenté d'un Chef et d'un Sous-Chef de Musique.

Annexe au Chapitre XII.

RÈGLEMENT PROVISOIRE DE LA MILICE.

I.—*Districts de Recrutement.*

Article 1er. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XII, Article 8, le territoire de la province est divisée en douze districts de recrutement correspondant, deux par deux, à chacun des six départements.

La formation des districts sera déterminée, en vertu du principe sus-énoncé, d'après la subdivision de la province en cantons administratifs et de façon que les cantons ne soient pas fractionnés.

Les chefs-lieux des districts sont :—

Pour le 1er Philippopoli,
" 2e "
" 3e Tatar-Bazardjik,
" 4e Karlova,
" 5e Kézanlik,
" 6e Eski-Zaghra,
" 7e Slivno,
" 8e Yamboli,
" 9e Hermanli,
" 10e Haskeui,
" 11e Aïdos,
" 12e Bourgas.

S'il arrive qu'en raison de l'étendue inégale des districts de recrutement certains districts ne possèdent pas un nombre suffisant de miliciens, un arrêté du Gouverneur-Général prononce le passage temporaire d'un district à l'autre du nombre d'hommes nécessaires, en prescrivant toujours qu'ils soient choisis de préférence dans les communes ou au moins dans les cantons limitrophes.

Art. 2. Un officier supérieur, ou capitaine, est placé à la tête de chacun des districts de recrutement.

Cet officier exerce une direction permanente sur les opérations relatives à l'instruction, à la mobilisation, et à l'administration militaires dans le district; il est en outre Commandant du bataillon de milice du premier ban et Président du Conseil d'Administration de ce bataillon et de celui du deuxième ban.

En cas de mobilisation, il est remplacé, dans ses fonctions de Commandant Militaire du district, par le Capitaine commandant la compagnie présente.

Il exerce un contrôle et une direction de tous les instants sur le sergent-major de district chargé du service du recrutement dans le district.

Art. 3. Le sergent-major de district est chargé, sous la direction immédiate du Commandant Militaire du district, de tout ce qui est relatif à l'exécution du service de recrutement; il assiste aux opérations du tirage au sort et de la révision, établit et tient à jour le Registre-Matricule et rédige les certificats d'exemption, de dispense, d'ajournement et de sursis signés par le Commandant Militaire du district; il prépare les ordres individuels d'appel, et entretient une correspondance suivie avec les Maires pour l'inscription des changements de résidence des miliciens.

Il est assisté dans son service par un caporal et un milicien secrétaires.

II.—*Hiérarchie.—Avancement.*

Art. 4. La hiérarchie militaire, dans la milice, se compose des grades ci-après :—

Caporal ou brigadier; sergent ou maréchal-des-logis; sergent-major ou maréchal-des-logis-chef; sous-lieutenant; lieutenant; capitaine; chef de bataillon ou major; lieutenant-colonel; colonel; général de brigade; et éventuellement, général de division.

Art. 5. L'avancement à tous les grades dans la milice roule sur deux catégories différentes—celle des cadres permanents et celle des cadres non-permanents.

Tous les officiers, sous-officiers, caporaux et soldats concourent entre eux pour l'avancement dans l'une ou l'autre de ces deux catégories.

Art. 6. Dans les cadres permanents :—

Nul ne peut être promu caporal ou brigadier, s'il n'a servi six mois au moins comme soldat; nul ne peut être promu sergent ou maréchal-des-logis, s'il n'a servi six mois au moins comme caporal ou brigadier; nul ne peut être promu sergent-major ou maréchal-des-logis-chef, s'il n'a servi un an au moins comme sergent ou maréchal-des-logis; nul ne peut être promu sous-lieutenant, s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-officier; nul ne peut être promu lieutenant, s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-lieutenant; nul ne peut être promu capitaine, s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme lieutenant.

Art. 7. Dans les cadres non-permanents :—

Nul ne peut être promu caporal, s'il n'a figuré pendant un an au moins sur les contrôles d'un bataillon de milice et s'il n'a entièrement fini son instruction bimensuelle; nul ne peut être promu sergent, s'il n'a servi un an au moins comme

caporal et s'il n'a pris part, avec ce grade, à une manœuvre annuelle; nul ne peut être promu sergent-major, s'il n'a servi un an au moins comme sergent, s'il n'a fait un stage d'instruction de quinze jours au moins à son bataillon (Chapitre XII, Article 48), et s'il n'a pris part, comme sous-officier, à une manœuvre annuelle; nul ne peut être promu sous-lieutenant, s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-officier, s'il n'a fait un stage d'instruction de deux mois au moins au Bataillon-école (Chapitre XII, Article 53), et s'il n'a pris part à deux manœuvres annuelles; nul ne peut être promu lieutenant, s'il n'a servi trois ans au moins comme sous-lieutenant et s'il n'a fait, dans ce grade, un stage d'instruction de deux mois au moins au Bataillon-école; nul ne peut être promu capitaine, s'il n'a servi trois ans au moins comme lieutenant et s'il n'a fait, dans ce grade, un stage de deux mois au moins au Bataillon-école.

Art. 8. Tout soldat, caporal, sous-officier ou officier, qui quitte le service actif après avoir servi deux ans au moins dans les cadres permanents, peut être immédiatement promu au grade supérieur, pour servir dans les cadres non-permanents.

Le temps de service exigé pour la promotion aux différents grades d'officier dans les cadres non-permanents est réduit de moitié pour tous les anciens officiers du cadre permanent, à la condition qu'ils aient servi deux ans au moins comme officiers dans ce cadre.

Art. 9. Les caporaux, brigadiers, sergents, et maréchaux-des-logis sont nommés par les chefs de bataillon, dans leur bataillon; les sergents-majors, y compris les sergents-majors de districts et les maréchaux-des-logis-chefs, par le Commandant de milice et de la gendarmerie, sur la proposition des chefs de bataillon ou des Commandants Militaires de district; les officiers subalternes, par le Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 10. Les propositions pour les différents grades d'officiers sont faites, annuellement, après l'achèvement des manœuvres; les candidats proposés sont envoyés aussitôt après au Bataillon-école pour y faire leur stage d'instruction.

A l'expiration de ce stage, ils subissent un examen devant une Commission composée: du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, de trois officiers supérieurs, dont le Commandant du Bataillon-école, et du capitaine de compagnie, d'escadron ou de batterie, sous les ordres duquel le candidat a servi au Bataillon-école. Cette Commission établit le "Tableau de Classement," qui est valable pour toute l'année.

Art. 11. Par exception à cette disposition, les officiers et sous-officiers employés à titre permanent peuvent être dispensés du stage d'instruction au Bataillon-école et classés sans examen sur le Tableau établi par la Commission.

Art. 12. Les dispositions prescrites aux Articles 6 et 7 ci-dessus ne sont pas obligatoires pendant la période d'organisation.

Le Gouverneur-Général conserve d'ailleurs, en tout temps, le droit de nommer, après avoir pris l'avis de la Commission de Classement, tout candidat étranger ayant donné des preuves d'aptitude et offrant des garanties exceptionnelles de capacité, à la condition que le chiffre des officiers étrangers ne dépasse pas le cinquième de l'effectif total des officiers de la milice.

Ces nominations doivent toujours être faites dans les conditions stipulées au Chapitre XIII, Article 20.

Art. 13. Tout officier de la milice, indigène ou étranger, est soumis, après son admission dans la milice, aux conditions d'ancienneté indiquées ci-dessus.

Il ne peut y être fait exception qu'en cas de guerre ou pour action d'éclat constatée par la mise à l'ordre du jour de la milice.

Art. 14. Les récompenses provinciales accordées aux hommes de troupe et aux officiers de la milice sont les mêmes que celles indiquées à l'Article 10 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 15. La hiérarchie des membres du corps de santé militaire et du service vétérinaire comprend trois grades d'officier, savoir:

Médecin-major, grade de capitaine.
Médecin aide-major, ou vétérinaire de première classe, grade de lieutenant.
Médecin aide-major ou vétérinaire de deuxième classe, grade de sous-lieutenant.

Celle des infirmiers comprend quatre classes, savoir:

Infirmier-major, grade de sergent-major.
Infirmier-major de première classe, grade de sergent.
Infirmier-major de deuxième classe, grade de caporal.
Infirmier-major de troisième classe, grade de soldat.

Art. 17. Les conditions d'ancienneté imposées pour l'avancement aux différents grades d'officier du corps de santé militaire sont les mêmes que celles en vigueur pour les officiers de la milice, avec cette réserve que nul ne peut être promu officier dans le

corps de santé militaire ou dans le service vétérinaire s'il n'a terminé ses études médicales ou vétérinaires et s'il n'a le diplôme de médecin ou de vétérinaire.

III.—*Solde.—Indemnités.*

Art. 17. Le service de la solde a pour objet de pourvoir à toutes les prestations en deniers attribuées, soit individuellement aux officiers et aux hommes de troupe de tous grades de la milice, soit collectivement aux corps dont ils font partie.

Les prestations qui ressortissent du service de la solde sont: la solde proprement dite, et les accessoires de solde.

Art. 18. On distingue deux espèces principales de solde: la solde d'activité, et la solde de non-activité.

Art. 19. Aucun officier ou homme de troupe de la milice ne peut jouir de la solde d'activité, s'il n'est en activité de service.

Art. 20. L'activité commence, pour les officiers et hommes de troupe du cadre permanent, le lendemain du jour de leur arrivée au corps; pour les officiers du cadre non permanent, à partir du jour où ils quittent le lieu de leur résidence ordinaire pour rejoindre, en vertu d'un ordre supérieur, le corps dont ils font partie ou le Bataillon-école.

Les sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats du cadre non-permanent n'ont droit à aucune solde, même pendant la durée de leur temps de service effectif à leur corps ou au Bataillon-école. Cette disposition peut seulement être modifiée, en cas de guerre, par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 21. L'activité cesse: pour les officiers du cadre permanent, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu la notification de leur suspension, de leur révocation, de l'acceptation de leur démission ou de leur mise à la retraite; pour les sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats du cadre permanent, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu leur congé définitif, l'avis de leur admission à la retraite, ou, sans autre notification, le lendemain du jour où expire leur engagement volontaire.

Art. 22. L'activité cesse, pour les officiers du cadre non-permanent, le jour où ils rentrent au lieu de leur résidence ordinaire après l'achèvement de leur stage au corps ou au Bataillon-école, après les manœuvres annuelles, ou après le licenciement des unités mobilisées dont ils faisaient partie.

Le nombre de jours nécessaires aux officiers pour rentrer au lieu de leur résidence ordinaire est calculé d'après la distance kilométrique à parcourir.

Art. 23. La solde d'activité des officiers de la milice directement nommés par Sa Majesté le Sultan sera fixée, jusqu'au premier vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale, par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général; elle ne pourra être inférieure à celle des officiers du même grade dans l'armée Ottomane.

Art. 24. La solde d'activité, pour les officiers, subalternes et hommes de troupe de la milice, qui ne sont pas liés au service en vertu de contrats personnels et spéciaux, est fixée provisoirement comme il suit:—

Grades.	Par An.	Par Mois.
	£ T.	£ T.
Capitaine	180	15
Lieutenant	144	12
Sous-lieutenant	120	10
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Sergent-major ou Maréchal-des-logis Chef . ..	1,440	120
Sergent ou Maréchal-des-logis	960	80
Caporal ou Brigadier	600	50
Soldat	240	20

Les hommes de troupe de la milice sont en outre nourris et logés aux frais du budget de la province.

Ceux d'entre eux qui remplissent des fonctions hors rang peuvent être autorisés à loger et à vivre chez eux; il leur est alloué, dans ce cas, une indemnité représentative de subsistance et de logement qui est:—

Pour les sergents-majors et maréchaux-des-logis-chefs 10 piastres par jour.
Pour les sergents ou maréchaux-des-logis 8 piastres par jour.
Pour les caporaux ou brigadiers 4½ piastres par jour.

Pour les soldats 3 piastres par jour.

La solde des sous-officiers, brigadiers, et soldats des troupes à cheval est augmentée de :—40 paras par jour pour les maréchaux-des-logis-chefs ; 30 paras par jour pour les maréchaux-des-logis ; 20 paras par jour pour les brigadiers ; 20 paras par jour pour les cavaliers et artilleurs.

Art. 25. La solde des officiers, sous-officiers, caporaux, ou brigadiers, et soldats employés au Bataillon-école est augmentée de :—

Un cinquième pour les officiers supérieurs et capitaines ; un quart pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ; un tiers pour les sous-officiers, caporaux ou brigadiers, et soldats.

Art. 26. La solde des militaires de la milice liés au service en vertu de contrats est déterminée dans les conditions indiquées à l'Article 96 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 27. La solde est payée, pour les militaires de tous grades de la milice, par mois et à terme échu, à raison du nombre de journées passées en activité dans le mois.

Le mois est toujours calculé à raison de trente jours.

Art. 28 La solde est réduite à la moitié du Tarif pour tout militaire de la milice qui jouit d'un congé d'une durée supérieure à trente jours, à moins qu'une décision spéciale du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ne lui accorde, exceptionnellement, la solde entière. La durée du congé à solde entière ne peut excéder trois mois.

Art. 29. Tout militaire de la milice allant en congé est payé de sa solde d'activité jusqu'au jour de son départ exclusivement ; il recouvre ses droits à la solde entière le lendemain du jour où il reprend son service.

En principe, et sauf le cas de délégation appliqué à la milice dans les conditions stipulées à l'Article 102 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie, la solde de congé est payée seulement au retour du militaire de la milice en congé.

Art. 30. Tout militaire de la milice qui dépasse de plus de vingt-quatre heures la durée de son congé ou de sa permission, est, sauf le cas de force majeure, privé de tout rappel de sa solde de congé.

Tout officier de la milice en détention, en jugement, en prison disciplinaire ou aux arrêts de rigueur reçoit seulement, pendant tout le temps où il subit sa peine, la moitié de la solde d'activité de son grade.

Tout homme de troupe dans les mêmes conditions est entièrement privé de solde pendant ce temps.

S'il arrive cependant qu'un militaire en état d'arrestation préventive soit acquitté par le Conseil de Guerre, il lui est fait restitution du complément de sa solde d'activité.

Art. 31. Les indemnités allouées éventuellement aux militaires de la milice sont au nombre de six, savoir :

1. Indemnité de logement et d'ameublement (pour les officiers) ;
2. Indemnité de déplacement ;
3. Indemnité de frais de route ;
4. Indemnité de rassemblement ;
5. Indemnité représentative d'achat de chevaux (pour les militaires montés) ;
6. Indemnité représentative de fourrages.

Art. 32. L'indemnité de logement et d'ameublement est accordée à tout officier de la milice en activité qui n'est pas logé chez l'habitant ou dans les bâtiments militaires. Elle est de : £ T. 3 par mois pour les officiers supérieurs ; £ T. 2 par mois pour les capitaines ; £ T. 1½ par mois pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants.

Cette indemnité est payée par mois aux officiers des cadres permanents ; elle est payée par jour aux militaires des cadres non-permanents, depuis le jour de leur arrivée au corps ou au Bataillon-école jusqu'à celui de leur départ inclusivement.

L'indemnité de logement et d'ameublement continue à être payée aux officiers des cadres permanents en permission dont l'absence ne dure pas plus de trente jours et aux officiers malades, en traitement à l'hôpital ou chez eux.

Art. 33. L'indemnité de déplacement, l'indemnité de frais de route, et l'indemnité de rassemblement sont réglées, pour les militaires de tous grades de la milice, suivant les bases indiquées aux Articles 104, 105, 106, et 107 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 34. Les officiers montés de tous grades de la milice sont tenus de se remonter à leurs frais dans les quinze jours qui suivent leur entrée en fonctions.

Ils reçoivent, à cet effet, une indemnité représentative du prix d'achat de chacun des chevaux auxquels ils ont droit et qui est payée conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 86 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Les dispositions des Articles 87 et 88 du dit Règlement sont également applicables aux militaires montés de la milice.

Une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général détermine le nombre de chevaux alloués aux militaires de la milice, pour lesquels il n'a pas été fait de mention spéciale aux Tableaux A et B, annexés au Chapitre XII.

Art. 35. Pour la remonte des hommes de troupe du Bataillon-école, il est formé une Commission composée du Commandant de l'escadron, du Commandant de la batterie, de deux officiers des troupes à cheval, et d'un vétérinaire.

La Commission fait les achats de façon à ce que la moyenne des prix d'achat des chevaux de cavalerie ne dépasse pas, par cheval, le chiffre de l'indemnité d'achat allouée pour les chevaux de troupe. La moyenne du prix d'achat des chevaux d'artillerie est fixée lors du vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

La même Commission a qualité pour procéder à l'achat des fourrages nécessaires à la subsistance des chevaux d'officiers et de troupe en service au Bataillon-école, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 90 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 36. Tous les militaires montés de la milice qui n'appartiennent pas au Bataillon-école reçoivent, pour chacun des chevaux auxquels ils ont droit et à défaut de rations de fourrages directement fournies par les magasins militaires, une indemnité journalière de fourrages dont le chiffre est fixé :

Pour les chevaux d'officiers, à 4 piastres par jour ; pour les chevaux de troupe, à 3½ piastres par jour.

Art. 37. La haute-paie journalière d'ancienneté prévue au Chapitre XII, Article 60, est payée conformément aux dispositions des Articles 108 et 109 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 38. Une indemnité spéciale de frais de bureau est allouée :

Au Chef d'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, pour tout le service de la Chancellerie de la milice ; aux Commandants Militaires de district ; aux officiers d'administrations des bataillons ; aux sergents-majors de district.

Le chiffre de ces indemnités est fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général en raison des besoins constatés.

Art. 39. Les sous-officiers des cadres permanents promus au grade de sous-lieutenant dans les dits cadres reçoivent une gratification de première mise et d'équipement fixée :

Pour les officiers des troupes à cheval, à £ T. 15 ; pour les officiers des troupes à pied à £ T. 12.

Art. 40. Les dispositions des Articles 114 et 115 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie sur les gratifications pour bons services et sur la solde de non-activité sont applicables aux officiers et hommes de troupe du cadre permanent de la milice.

Art. 41. La nourriture fournie aux hommes de troupe de la milice par les soins des municipalités, conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XII, Article 51, donne droit au paiement d'une indemnité payée par le budget de la province.

Cette indemnité est fixée :

Pour les sous-officiers à 4 piastres par jour ; pour caporaux et brigadiers à 2½ piastres par jour.

Art. 42. En ce qui concerne le Bataillon-école et les compagnies présentes des bataillons du premier ban, l'indemnité journalière de subsistance peut être directement versée au corps, qui gère ce fonds spécial et assure directement la nourriture des hommes de troupe.

IV.—*Armement.—Harnachement.—Munitions.*

Art. 43. L'armement se compose :

De fusils d'infanterie, de fusils de cavalerie, de sabres d'infanterie, de sabres de cavalerie et d'artillerie, de revolvers, et du matériel d'artillerie.

Art. 44. Le système d'armes portatives adopté pour la milice est déterminé par un Arrêté du Gouverneur-Général. Une loi provinciale alloue les crédits nécessaires pour faire les achats en bloc ou en plusieurs termes consécutifs.

Le matériel d'artillerie, les affûts, caissons, &c., ainsi que le harnachement sont choisis dans les mêmes conditions et achetés dans les limites des crédits fixés par la loi provinciale dont il a été parlé plus haut.

Art. 45. Il sera organisé un magasin central d'armes, d'outils, et d'effets de

harnachement, ainsi que des ateliers de pyrotechnie, de réparation d'armes, et de construction de voitures.

Ces établissements sont attachés au Bataillon-école; les ateliers sont servis par le personnel spécial de la division d'artillerie et de la compagnie technique.

Art. 46. Au fur et à mesure de leur livraison au magasin central, les armes reçues seront réparties entre les différents corps, de façon que l'instruction militaire des miliciens puisse commencer promptement et simultanément, dans tous les districts et au Bataillon-école.

Les armes restant en excédant, dans chaque district, après la distribution aux hommes des compagnies présentes et aux hommes appelés, sont déposées dans le magasin d'armement du district.

Art. 47. Les Commandants Militaires de district exercent un contrôle spécial sur le magasin d'armement.

Ils en surveillent l'entretien et dirigent le travail des ouvriers-armuriers attachés à l'Etat-Major du district.

Ils s'assurent qu'il n'est mis en service que des armes en bon état et en passent fréquemment l'inspection; ils en surveillent la réintégration et n'autorisent les miliciens à les emporter chez eux qu'en vertu d'ordres spéciaux du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 48. En principe, le magasin d'armement de chaque district de recrutement doit contenir un nombre d'armes au moins égal à l'effectif des deux bataillons mobilisés et de la section de dépôt du district.

Il doit s'y trouver également, en permanence, les bâts et effets de harnachement nécessaires pour la mise immédiate en service, en cas de mobilisation, des cinquante-six animaux de bât qui constituent le train spécial à chaque bataillon, ainsi qu'une réserve d'outils de pionniers suffisante pour faire le chargement de seize animaux de bât employés, dans chaque bataillon mobilisé, au transport des outils.

Art. 49. Les munitions d'exercice et de guerre sont, autant que possible, préparées par les soins de la section d'artificiers du Bataillon-école.

Les cartouches chargées sont déposées dans un magasin spécial, qui alimente les petits dépôts de munitions attachés au magasin d'armement de chaque district.

Il n'est délivré de cartouches de tir ou de cartouches à blanc aux miliciens rentrant dans leurs foyers que dans les conditions indiquées au dernier alinéa de l'Article 47 ci-dessus.

Art. 50. Le matériel d'artillerie en service au Bataillon-école se compose ordinairement d'une demi-batterie de quatre pièces. Le matériel d'artillerie et les effets de harnachement en excédant sont déposés au magasin central d'armement de la milice placé sous la surveillance des officiers d'artillerie et du Commandant du Bataillon-école.

V.—*Habillement.—Equipement.*

Art. 51. La tenue des hommes d'infanterie de la milice est la suivante:—

Tunique-vareuse en drap noir du pays, avec poches et col rabattu et deux rangs de six boutons en cuivre uni; serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons. Parements et col en drap de fond; sur le devant du col, pattes en drap rouge fixées par un bouton. Pattes d'épaules en drap rouge portant le numéro du bataillon imprimé en jaune.

Pantalon de même étoffe que la tunique.

Bottes montantes portées par dessus le pantalon.

Capote en drap gris du pays, avec un rang de six boutons en cuivre uni, pattes d'épaules en drap rouge portant le numéro du bataillon et pattes en drap rouge fixées sur le devant du col par un bouton; serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons.

Art. 52. La tenue des hommes de cavalerie est la suivante:—

Tunique-blouse en drap noir du pays, avec un rang de six boutons blancs unis et un col rabattu portant, sur le devant, deux pattes en drap bleu fixées chacune par un bouton; serrée à la taille par un cordon intérieur et passepoilée de bleu sur toutes les bordures. Pattes d'épaules en drap bleu doublé de noir; parements en drap de fond, taillés en pointe et fixés par un bouton.

Pantalon de même étoffe que la tunique, avec une large bande en drap bleu.

Bottes montantes, à éperons, portées par dessus le pantalon.

Ceinture bleue portée par dessus la tunique.

Capote en drap gris du pays avec un rang de six boutons blancs unis, pattes d'épaules en drap bleu et serrée à la taille par une patte à deux boutons; collet

rabattu portant, sur le devant, deux pattes en drap bleu fixées chacune par un bouton.

Art. 53. La tenue des hommes d'artillerie est semblable à celle des hommes de la cavalerie avec cette différence que le passepoil de la tunique et la bande du pantalon sont en drap rouge, que les boutons sont en cuivre uni et que les pattes cousues sur le col de la tunique et de la capote ainsi que les pattes d'épaules sont en drap noir passepoilé de rouge. Les artilleurs portent en outre la ceinture à bandes rouges et alternées.

Art. 54. La tenue des hommes de la Compagnie Technique est semblable à celle des soldats d'infanterie, avec cette différence que les pattes d'épaules et celles cousues sur le devant du col de la tunique et de la capote sont en drap amaranthe et que la tunique et le pantalon portent un passepoil de même couleur.

Art. 55. Les hommes de troupe employés à titre permanent au Bataillon-école portent, sur la patte d'épaules, au lieu d'un numéro, les lettres initiales des mots, "Bataillon-école."

Art. 56. Les grades sont marqués:—

Pour les caporaux et brigadiers, par une double tresse en laine blanche cousue transversalement sur la patte d'épaule;

Pour les sergents et maréchaux-des-logis, par un galon d'or ou d'argent posé sur le haut du col et des parements de manche, et par un triple tresse en laine blanche cousue transversalement sur la patte d'épaule;

Pour les sergents-majors et maréchaux-des-logis-chefs, par un galon d'or ou d'argent au col et aux manches et par un galon de métal de même largeur posé transversalement sur la patte d'épaules.

Art. 57. Les officiers de la milice ont un uniforme de même modèle que celui de leurs hommes. Ils portent les boutons dorés ou argentés selon le métal du bouton de la troupe et ont, comme insigne particulier, des pattes d'épaules en or ou en argent sur lesquelles les grades sont marqués par des étoiles en argent ou en or.

Par exception, les officiers de l'artillerie et du génie ont le col de la tunique en velours noir bordé d'un passepoil, rouge pour l'artillerie et amaranthe pour le génie.

Les officiers employés au titre de l'Etat-Major portent l'uniforme de leur corps avec les aiguillettes.

Art. 58. En été, les officiers et les hommes de troupe de la milice remplacent la tunique en drap par une blouse ou veste en toile blanche, avec pattes d'épaules en drap de la couleur spéciale à chaque arme.

Art. 59. Les effets d'équipement des hommes d'infanterie de la milice se composent:—

D'un kalpak bas, en peau de mouton noir frisé, avec dessus en drap rouge, orné, sur le devant, d'un écusson en cuivre avec l'inscription, "Milice Locale;"

D'un ceinturon avec porte baïonnette en cuir noir;

D'une giberne et d'une cartouchière en cuir noir.

Art. 60. Les effets d'équipement des hommes de cavalerie se composent:—

D'un kalpak haut, en peau de mouton noir frisé, avec dessus et flamme en drap bleu tombant sur le côté droit orné, sur le devant, d'un écusson en métal blanc portant l'inscription, "Milice Locale;"

D'un ceinturon avec deux bélières en cuir noir;

D'une dragonne en cuir noir;

D'une giberne suspendue à un baudrier en cuir noir;

D'une cartouchière en cuir noir portée au côté droit du ceinturon;

D'un étui de fusil en cuir.

Art. 61. Les effets d'équipement des hommes de l'artillerie sont les mêmes, pour les canonniers conducteurs, que ceux des hommes de cavalerie, pour les servants et pour les ouvriers que ceux des hommes d'infanterie.

Les hommes de la Compagnie Technique ont le même équipement que ceux de l'infanterie.

La plaque du kalpak est toujours du même métal que les boutons de la tunique.

Art. 62. Les officiers des différentes armes ont le kalpak avec écusson en cuivre doré ou argenté et le sabre d'officier d'infanterie ou de cavalerie, avec ceinturon, bélière et dragonne d'or ou d'argent.

Art. 63. Hors du service et pendant l'été, quand l'ordre en est donné par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, on peut substituer au kalpak un bonnet de police analogue à celui dont la description est donnée à l'Article 121 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 64. Les effets d'habillement et d'équipement, ainsi que le linge et chaussure,

sont fournis aux hommes de troupe de la milice par les magasins de district ou par celui du Bataillon-école.

La durée réglementaire des effets, pour les hommes du cadre permanent, est la même que celle qui est indiquée à l'Article 123 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Elle sera fixée, après expérience, par le Gouverneur-Général, en ce qui concerne les hommes du cadre non-permanent.

Art. 65. Un règlement spécial déterminera la mode de livraison et de réintégration des effets, ainsi que les détails de la gestion du magasin central d'habillement et des magasins des districts.

VI.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 66. Il sera fait application, dans les troupes de la milice, jusqu'à la promulgation de règlements spéciaux à la province, de certains des règlements militaires actuellement en vigueur dans les corps provisoires organisés depuis l'occupation.

Ces règlements sont :—

Règlements de tactique ; règlements sur le service intérieur des corps de troupe ; règlements sur le service des places ; règlements sur le service en campagne ; règlements sur l'administration et la comptabilité intérieure des corps de troupe.

Il y sera toutefois introduit, aussitôt après la mise en vigueur du Statut de la province, toutes les modifications résultant des dispositions du présent Règlement et des dispositions organiques contenues aux Chapitres XII et XIII du Statut, notamment en ce qui concerne les mesures de révocation, de suspension, et de cassation contre les officiers et hommes de troupe de la milice, l'organisation des diverses unités, les périodes d'instruction, le système de mobilisation, et le fonctionnement des Conseils d'Administration.

Annexe au Chapitre XIII.

RÈGLEMENT PROVISOIRE DE LA GENDARMERIE.

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Serment.

Art. 67. Il sera fait également usage, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie, du Code Pénal Militaire en vigueur dans l'armée Ottomane, sauf, bien entendu, dans ce que ses dispositions peuvent avoir de contraire à celles du Statut.

Hiérarchie.

Art. 1. Les membres de la gendarmerie, quel que soit leur grade, avant d'entrer en fonctions, sont tenus de prêter serment devant le Juge de Canton siégeant en audience publique. Ils s'engagent à observer les lois, à remplir leurs devoirs professionnels et à obéir aux ordres de leurs chefs hiérarchiques.

Art. 2. La hiérarchie militaire, dans la gendarmerie départementale ou mobile, se compose des grades ci-après :

(*a.*) Gendarme de deuxième et de première classe :—
Les gendarmes de première classe sont dans la proportion du cinquième au plus de l'effectif.

(*b.*) Brigadier (caporal) :—
Commandant de brigade (à pied ou à cheval) ; adjoint d'un sous-officier commandant de brigade ; secrétaire.

(*c.*) Maréchal-des-logis (sergent) :
Commandant de brigade (à pied ou à cheval) ; secrétaire ; garde-magasin.

(*d.*) Maréchal-des-logis-chef (sergent-major) :
En service seulement dans la gendarmerie mobile.

(*e.*) Sous-lieutenant ou lieutenant :
Commandant de section ; trésorier ; officier d'habillement ; Commandant de peloton (dans l'escadron de la gendarmerie mobile).

(*f.*) Capitaine :
Commandant de compagnie ; trésorier ; officier d'habillement ; Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile ; Chef de la Chancellerie du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

(*g.*) Major :
Chef de la Chancellerie du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ; Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile.

(*h.*) Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel :
Inspecteur, suppléant du Commandant de la gendarmerie.

Art. 3. Le nombre des emplois de brigadiers est égal à celui des brigades augmenté de celui des brigadiers secrétaires et du nombre de brigadiers compris dans le cadre de la gendarmerie mobile.

Le nombre des maréchaux-des-logis est égal au tiers de celui des brigadiers.

Les maréchaux-des-logis et les brigadiers commandent les brigades ; en principe tout maréchal-des-logis commandant de brigade peut être assisté d'un brigadier adjoint.

Les sous-lieutenants et lieutenants sont indistinctement chargés des mêmes fonctions. Leur nombre est déterminé d'après celui des sections, augmenté du nombre de places de ce grade dans l'Etat-Major et dans la gendarmerie mobile.

Permissions, Congés, et Renvois.

Art. 4. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie accorde seul, sur la proposition des Commandants de compagnie approuvée par les Préfets, les permissions et congés temporaires aux officiers de tous grades de la gendarmerie.

Des permissions de quinze jours au plus peuvent être accordées aux sous-officiers et gendarmes par les Commandants de compagnie dans la gendarmerie départementale et par le Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile dans ce corps. Les permissions ou congés d'une plus longue durée sont accordés seulement par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, sur la proposition des Commandants de compagnie.

Art. 5. Le Gouverneur-Général est toujours en droit d'annuler, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, l'acte d'engagement d'un sous-officier, brigadier ou gendarme, s'il ressort des informations fournies à son sujet par les Commandants de compagnie et par les Préfets qu'il est incapable de remplir son service ou que son inconduite prolongée porte atteinte à la dignité de l'uniforme.

II.—*Avancement.—Admissions.*

Le licenciement peut être aussi prononcé pour cause d'infirmités. Il donne droit, dans ce cas, à l'obtention d'une pension ou d'une gratification renouvelable.

Art. 6. L'avancement à tous les grades roule sur le corps entier de la gendarmerie, y compris la gendarmerie mobile.

Les emplois de brigadiers à pied et à cheval sont donnés à des gendarmes sachant lire et écrire, ayant six mois au moins de service dans la gendarmerie et proposés pour l'avancement, ou à des sous-officiers de la milice proposés par les Commandants de bataillons de milice, après constatation de leur aptitude.

La totalité des emplois de maréchal-des-logis à pied et à cheval est donnée à des brigadiers de gendarmerie ayant six mois au moins de service dans leur grade et proposés pour l'avancement.

Art. 7. Les tableaux d'avancement, pour les gendarmes et les brigadiers, sont établis, pour chaque compagnie, par le Commandant de compagnie et approuvés par le Préfet, et pour la gendarmerie mobile, par l'officier commandant. Ces tableaux sont soumis à l'examen du Conseil d'Administration du corps de la gendarmerie qui établit le "Tableau de Classement."

Ce tableau sert de base aux nominations qui sont faites par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Celui-ci conserve toutefois le droit de porter d'office au tableau d'avancement et même de nommer immédiatement tout gendarme ou brigadier signalé par des services exceptionnels, s'il remplit d'ailleurs les conditions réglementaires d'ancienneté.

Art. 8. L'avancement à tous les grades et emplois d'officiers subalternes est dévolu, par moitié, aux militaires du corps de la gendarmerie proposés pour l'avancement, et, par moitié, aux officiers de la milice qui sollicitent leur admission dans la gendarmerie.

A défaut d'un nombre suffisant de candidats de la milice aptes à remplir ces emplois, l'excédant d'emplois vacants est dévolu par moitié aux membres du corps et par moitié aux anciens militaires indigènes ou étrangers, après constatation de leur aptitude.

Art. 9. Les candidats aux grades de sous-lieutenant, de lieutenant, et de capitaine sont proposés, pour chaque compagnie, par les Commandants de compagnie avec l'approbation des Préfets. Ces états de proposition sont soumis à l'examen d'une Commission composée: du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, Président, de l'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur, et d'un autre Officier Supérieur ou Capitaine; cette Commission établit le tableau de classement, qui est ensuite transmis au Gouverneur-Général.

Les demandes des officiers de la milice et des candidats indigènes ou étrangers qui sollicitent leur admission dans la gendarmerie sont soumises à l'examen de la même Commission, qui en fait l'objet d'un tableau de classement particulier.

Le Gouverneur-Général conserve le droit de porter d'office à l'un ou l'autre de ces tableaux et de nommer hors tour tout candidat ayant fait ses preuves d'aptitude et offrant des garanties exceptionnelles de capacité.

En principe, nul ne peut être promu sous-lieutenant, s'il n'a rempli pendant deux ans au moins les fonctions de sous-officier;

Nul ne peut être promu lieutenant, s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-lieutenant;

Nul ne peut être promu Capitaine, s'il n'a servi trois ans au moins comme lieutenant.

Ces conditions de temps peuvent être réduites de moitié pour action d'éclat constatée par la mise à l'ordre du jour du corps.

Art. 10. Des récompenses de diverse nature peuvent être accordées aux membres du corps de la gendarmerie qui se sont distingués par des services exceptionnels.

Les récompenses provinciales sont:

La gratification; la mise à l'ordre du jour, avec ou sans gratification; la délivrance de dragonnes ou de sabres d'honneur.

Les dragonnes ou sabres d'honneur ne sont conférés qu'en récompense d'actes de bravoure et de dévouement militaire.

Ces récompenses sont accordées par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Privé.

III.—*Devoirs de la Gendarmerie envers les Autorités.*

Première Section.—*Devoirs de la Gendarmerie envers les Administrateurs-Généraux.*

Attributions du Commandant de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 11. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie a dans ses attributions l'organisation et l'exécution réglementaire des diverses parties du service; l'avancement, les changements de résidence, les admissions à la retraite, les récompenses, les révocations et les suspensions; l'instruction militaire, la discipline, la tenue, l'armement, la solde, l'habillement, l'équipement, la remonte; les revues, les inspections, l'administration intérieure, la vérification de la comptabilité, &c.

Il lui est transmis copie des Rapports périodiques adressés aux autorités civiles et rendu compte de tous les événements qui intéressent la sécurité publique. Les Rapports lui sont adressés par les Commandants de compagnie et, dans les cas urgents, par les Commandants de section.

Art. 12. Les événements qui donnent lieu à ces communications sont:—

Les vols avec effraction commis par des malfaiteurs au nombre de plus de deux; les incendies, les assassinats, et les inondations; les attaques de voitures publiques, de courriers, de convois, de deniers publics, et de munitions; l'enlèvement ou le pillage de caisses publiques ou de magasins militaires; les arrestations d'espions; les provocations à la révolte, les attroupements séditieux, les émeutes; les arrestations de faux-monnayeurs; les attaques dirigées contre la force armée; l'apparition de bandes armées; la découverte de dépôts d'armes, de munitions, de placards, et de listes ayant un but séditieux; l'envahissement des stations télégraphiques, des gares, ou la destruction des lignes; et, généralement, tous les événements qui exigent des mesures promptes et décisives pour prévenir le désordre ou pour le réprimer.

Attributions du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Art. 13. Les mesures prescrites pour assurer la tranquillité du pays, pour le maintien de l'ordre, et pour l'exécution des lois et des règlements de police et d'administration, émanent du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Il lui appartient de donner des ordres pour la police générale et pour la sûreté de la province.

Il lui est rendu compte périodiquement du service habituel de la gendarmerie.

Art. 14. A cet effet, les Commandants de compagnie adressent, du 5 au 10 de chaque mois, au Directeur de l'Intérieur:

1. Un état de situation de la compagnie, avec indication des hommes et des chevaux disponibles;

2. Un état récapitulatif du service exécuté dans le département pendant le mois précédent, donnant le relevé sommaire des arrestations civiles et militaires opérées pendant le mois, des escortes fournies, et enfin de tous les événements qui, par leur nature, peuvent influer sur la tranquillité publique;

3. Un état nominatif des individus arrêtés pendant le mois, avec indication des motifs de leur arrestation et du lieu où ils ont été conduits;

4. Un rapport sur la surveillance exercée vis-à-vis des repris de justice, des mendiants, des vagabonds, des condamnés libérés, des individus placés sous la surveillance de la police, &c.

Art. 15. Indépendamment de ces communications périodiques, il est donné immédiatement et directement connaissance au Directeur de l'Intérieur de tous les événements susceptibles de troubler la paix publique et dont le détail est indiqué à l'Article 12.

Art. 16. Les moyens de casernement des brigades de la gendarmerie départementale étant fournis par l'autorité administrative, de concert avec les départements, le Directeur de l'Intérieur exerce un contrôle supérieur sur les dispositions relatives à l'installation des locaux affectés à ce service.

Attributions du Directeur de la Justice.

Art. 17. Le Directeur de la Justice a dans ses attributions la direction des poursuites judiciaires, des enquêtes et des recherches, la mise à exécution des jugements et, d'une manière générale, toutes les mesures ayant pour but d'assurer l'exécution intégrale des lois.

A cet effet, il lui est adressé, du 5 au 10 de chaque mois, par les Commandants de compagnie, un Rapport détaillé faisant connaître les opérations de cette nature exécutées pendant le mois précédent, et, à la fin de chaque année, un Tableau sommaire du service judiciaire fait par les membres du corps de la gendarmerie pendant l'année écoulée.

Deuxième Section.—*Rapports de la Gendarmerie avec les Autorités Locales.*

Art. 18. L'action des autorités civiles, administratives et judiciaires sur la gendarmerie, en ce qui concerne son emploi, s'exerce par réquisition dans les conditions stipulées au Chapitre XIII, Article 4.

Les cas où la gendarmerie peut être requise sont tous ceux prévus par la loi et les règlements ou spécifiés par les ordres particuliers du service. Les réquisitions écrites devront énoncer, en conséquence, la loi qui les autorise, le motif, l'ordre, le jugement ou l'acte administratif en vertu duquel elles sont faites.

Art. 19. La gendarmerie doit communiquer immédiatement aux autorités civiles les renseignements qu'elle reçoit et qui intéressent l'ordre public.

Art. 20. Les Présidents de Tribunaux, les membres du parquet, les Juges de Canton, les Préfets et Baillis peuvent appeler auprès d'eux, par avis écrit, les officiers de gendarmerie commandant dans l'étendue de leur ressort. Dans les cas urgents, les officiers et Commandants de détachement de gendarmerie doivent, sans être appelés, se rendre chez les autorités aussi fréquemment que la gravité des circonstances l'exige.

Art. 21. Les Commandants de compagnie adressent chaque jour au Préfet de leur département un Rapport sur tous les événements qui peuvent intéresser l'ordre public; ils lui fournissent tous les renseignements contenus dans les rapports des sections et brigades lorsqu'ils peuvent donner lieu à des mesures de précaution ou de répression.

De semblables Rapports sont journellement adressés aux Baillis par les Commandants de section.

Les Commandants de section et de compagnie adressent en outre, tous les jours, aux Baillis et aux Préfets, un tableau sommaire des délits commis et des arrestations faites dans le ressort de la section ou de la compagnie.

Art. 22. Lorsque la tranquillité publique est menacée, les officiers et Commandants de détachement de la gendarmerie ne sont point appelés à discuter l'opportunité des mesures prescrites par les Préfets et Baillis, mais il est de leur devoir de désigner les points qui ne peuvent être dégarnis sans danger et de soumettre à ces fonctionnaires les propositions qui leur paraissent les plus conformes au bien du service.

Par contre, lorsque les autorités administratives ont formulé leurs réquisitions, elles ne peuvent s'immiscer dans la conduite des opérations ordonnées en exécution de ces réquisitions et dont les officiers et Commandants de détachement de la gendarmerie sont seuls responsables.

Art. 23. Dans aucun cas, les membres du corps de la gendarmerie ne doivent recevoir de missions occultes; leur action s'exerce en tenue militaire et au grand jour.

Art. 24. Les officiers de la gendarmerie, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, ne sont pas subordonnés aux Commandants Militaires des districts; ils sont tenus seulement à avoir vis-à-vis d'eux la déférence due à la supériorité éventuelle de leur rang hiérarchique.

Art. 25. Dans le cas d'une action commune de la gendarmerie et de la milice en vue de rétablir l'ordre, le Chef du détachement mobile de la milice garde le commandement de sa troupe, mais il est obligé de se conformer aux réquisitions qui lui sont faites par l'officier de gendarmerie, lequel demeure responsable de l'exécution de son mandat si l'officier auxiliaire se conforme à sa réquisition.

Art. 26. En règle générale, les autorités civiles, tout en disposant de la gendarmérie pour assurer l'exécution des lois et règlements, doivent traiter les Chefs de cette force publique avec les égards que mérite leur rang militaire.

De leur côté, les militaires de tous grades de la gendarmerie doivent demeurer dans la ligne de leurs devoirs envers les dites autorités, en observant constamment avec elles la déférence qui leur est due.

Art. 27. Les officiers, sous-officiers, et brigadiers de gendarmerie ont droit aux mêmes honneurs et préséances que les militaires de leur grade dans la milice.

IV.—*Fonctions inhérentes à chaque Grade.*

Art. 28. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie dirige et surveille l'ensemble du service, de l'administration, et de la comptabilité des compagnies. Il ne s'occupe point des détails du service, qui sont réglés par le Commandant de chaque compagnie; il se borne, sauf le cas de négligence et d'inexactitudes signalées, à réviser, par des circulaires générales et des ordres du jour, la marche à suivre pour l'exécution des lois, décrets, règlements, instructions, et décisions.

Art. 29. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie inspecte annuellement une partie des compagnies et des sections sous ses ordres. Ses inspections sont d'ordinaire inopinées. Il peut, s'il le juge convenable et après entente avec les Préfets, réunir sur un point donné une partie des gendarmes d'une compagnie pour les passer en revue et s'assurer de leur degré d'instruction militaire.

Art. 30. Le service normal des inspections est confié à l'officier supérieur inspecteur.

L'itinéraire, la durée, et l'étendue des inspections sont fixés après entente entre le Directeur de l'Intérieur et le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 31. L'Inspecteur se met, pendant ses inspections, en rapport avec les autorités civiles; il s'informe si le service se fait avec exactitude, si les militaires de tout grade de la gendarmerie font preuve de zèle et de dévouement, et s'ils tiennent une conduite exempte de reproches.

Il fait, avec le plus grand soin, l'inspection des hommes, s'assure s'ils connaissent les devoirs de leur état et s'ils sont capables de les remplir.

Il examine soigneusement les chevaux et donne des ordres pour le remplacement des animaux hors de service.

Il vérifie en détail l'état de l'armement, de l'équipement, de l'habillement et du harnachement.

Il profite de son passage pour recommander aux hommes le zèle et l'esprit de justice et d'abnégation qui sont l'essence de leur service; il félicite publiquement

les bons serviteurs et adresse un blâme public à ceux qui remplissent imparfaitement leurs devoirs.

L'Inspecteur examine l'état du casernement, dont il fait l'objet d'un Rapport spécial.

Il vérifie la compabilité des sections et compagnies, et s'assure que les deniers et matières sont gérés avec exactitude et probité. Il prend connaissance des registres du personnel tenus, dans chaque compagnie, par le Commandant de compagnie, et s'assure que les archives sont conservées en bon ordre.

Il adresse au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie des Rapports spéciaux d'inspection sur chacune des compagnies inspectées.

Art. 32. Les Commandants des compagnies de gendarmerie sont spécialement chargés de la direction et des détails du service dont ils surveillent l'exécution; ils entretiennent, à cet effet, des relations directes et habituelles avec les autorités civiles de leur ressort et rendent compte, tous les quinze jours et plus souvent s'il est nécessaire, au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, par un Rapport général, de tous les faits portés à leur connaissance par les Commandants de section.

Ils sont responsables de la police, de la discipline, de la tenue, et de l'instruction de leur compagnie.

Art. 33. Les Commandants de compagnie passent annuellement la revue de toutes les brigades sous leurs ordres. Avant de se mettre en route, ils en informent le Préfet de leur département et la commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Ils sont, pendant la durée de leur absence, suppléés dans le commandement de la section du chef-lieu par le plus ancien sous-officier de la section. Ils peuvent, si le Préfet en fait la demande, être suppléés par le plus ancien officier de la compagnie dans le service spécial de Commissaire Central de Police.

Les Commandants de compagnie rendent compte, dans un Rapport spécial, au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, des notes et observations recueillies dans chacune de leurs tournées. Ils lui adressent, en outre, semestriellement, après les avoir soumis à l'approbation de leurs Préfets respectifs, des états de proposition pour l'avancement des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes sous leurs ordres.

Art. 34. Les Commandants de compagnie tiennent à jour:—

1. Un registre des ordres du jour et circulaires concernant le service de la gendarmerie;
2. Un registre d'analyse des lettres et ordres émanant de l'autorité supérieure;
3. Un registre de correspondance;
4. Un registre de punitions;
5. Un registre du personnel des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes;
6. Un registre des rapports et renseignements qu'ils reçoivent sur des objets pouvant intéresser l'ordre public;
7. Un registre des déserteurs et insoumis dont la recherche est ordonnée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie;
8. Un registre des individus en surveillance dans le département.

Les Commandants de compagnie tiennent en outre, au titre de la section dont ils ont le commandement, les registres de section dont le détail est donné à l'Article 36 ci-après.

Le détail des registres relatifs à l'administration des compagnies est donné au titre de l'Administration, ci-après.

Les lettres, rapports, et ordres de service sont classés avec un numéro d'ordre.

Lorsqu'un Capitaine quitte le commandement d'une compagnie, ces pièces, registres, et documents sont remis, sur inventaire, à celui qui le remplace.

Les Commandants de compagnie sont autorisés à employer comme secrétaires un sous-officier et un brigadier ou gendarme. Ils ne doivent, dans aucun cas, employer ces secrétaires à la tenue du registre du personnel, ni permettre qu'ils en prennent connaissance.

En cas de départ du Commandant de compagnie, le registre du personnel est cacheté et déposé aux archives jusqu'au retour du titulaire ou jusqu'à l'arrivée de son successeur.

Art. 35. Les officiers de gendarmerie, Commandants de section, ont la surveillance de tout le service habituel des brigades; ils entretiennent une correspondance suivie avec le Commandant de compagnie auquel ils rendent compte, par un rapport journalier, de tous les faits portés à leur connaissance par la correspondance des brigades.

Si, dans l'étendue de leur commandement, il survient quelque événement extraor-

dinaire de nature à influer d'une manière quelconque sur la paix publique, ils doivent, après entente avec le Bailli de leur canton, se transporter aussitôt que possible sur les lieux et en rendre compte au Commandant de la compagnie. Si cet événement nécessite de promptes mesures, ils l'informent des dispositions qu'ils ont cru devoir prendre en attendant ses ordres.

Art. 36. Les Commandants de section font annuellement quatre tournées pour la revue de leurs brigades, autant que possible à raison d'une tournée par trimestre. Ils doivent, avant de s'absenter, prendre les ordres du Commandant de compagnie et obtenir l'agrément du Bailli.

Ces inspections portent sur tous les détails du service, de la tenue, de l'habillement, de la discipline, du casernement; ils s'assurent de l'état d'entretien des chevaux et veillent à ce qu'ils soient convenablement soignés et nourris. Ils vérifient le registre tenu par chaque Commandant de brigade et y apposent leur visa.

Les tournées des Commandants de section ne peuvent être un prétexte pour interrompre ou retarder l'exécution du service dans les brigades.

Dans les cinq jours qui suivent la fin de la tournée, les Commandants de section adressent au Commandant de la compagnie un rapport détaillée d'inspection.

En dehors des tournées réglementaires, les Commandants de section font, quand ils le jugent utile, des inspections inopinées de brigades.

Art. 37. Les Commandants de section sont tenus d'être pourvus des registres ci-après :—

1. Registre des ordres du jour et circulaires de la compagnie;
2. Registre de correspondances et rapports;
3. Registre analytique des procès-verbaux dressés dans la section;
4. Registre des mandats de justice;
5. Registre des déserteurs et insoumis;
6. Registre des individus en surveillance;
7. Registre des punitions;
8. Contrôle du personnel et des chevaux de la section.

Ils transmettent aux Commandants de compagnie, du 1er au 5 de chaque mois, un Rapport général sur le service effectué dans les brigades et un état de situation détaillé, ainsi que la totalité des "feuilles de service" des brigades, dont il est fait mention à l'Article 44 ci-après.

Les lettres, ordres, rapports, et minutes sont classés avec un numéro d'ordre.

Les Commandants de section sont autorisés à employer comme secrétaire un gendarme ou un brigadier détaché.

Lorsqu'un officier quitte le commandement d'une section, ces pièces, registres, et documents sont remis, sur inventaire, à celui qui le remplace.

Art. 38. Les officiers de la gendarmerie sont astreints à porter l'uniforme.

Il leur est expressément défendu, lors de leurs tournées, d'accepter ni logement, ni repas chez leurs inférieurs.

Art. 39. Le premier soin d'un Commandant de brigade doit être de donner à ses subordonnés l'exemple du zèle, de l'activité, de l'ordre, et de la subordination; il doit exercer son autorité envers ses inférieurs avec fermeté, mais sans montrer ni hauteur, ni familiarité.

Il est personnellement responsable de tout ce qui est relatif au service, à la tenue, à la police, et au bon ordre de la brigade.

Il règle journellement le service dans les brigades détachées et prend les ordres de l'officier commandant dans les centres de section ou de compagnie.

Art. 40. Les Commandants de brigade rendent compte, par un rapport hebdomadaire adressé à leur Chef direct, de tous les événements parvenus à leur connaissance dans la semaine; dans les cas urgents, ils peuvent directement correspondre avec le Commandant de la compagnie. Ils envoient toujours à leur Chef direct copie de leurs lettres et rapports.

Si le Commandant de brigade est assisté d'un brigadier adjoint, celui-ci est plus spécialement chargé de la correspondance, sous la direction du Commandant de la brigade.

Art. 41. Les Commandants de brigade ont la responsabilité de la tenue de la caserne et des chambres, de celle des écuries et du bon entretien des chevaux; ils s'assurent en particulier que les chevaux sont nourris convenablement et ne sont pas employés à un autre service que celui de la gendarmerie.

Art. 42. Les tournées de surveillance, conduites, et escortes, sont toujours faites, autant que possible, par deux hommes au moins; les gendarmes commandés pour un

service ne doivent jamais se mettre en route sans que le Commandant de la brigade ait passé l'inspection des hommes, des chevaux, et des armes.

Art. 43. Le Commandant de brigade prépare et régularise les pièces pour le transfèrement des prisonniers et l'exécution des mandats de justice, des réquisitions, et des ordres de conduite. Il dirige la rédaction des procès-verbaux et les écrit lui-même, si le gendarme est illettré; dans ce cas, il signe la pièce avec celui-ci comme certification de la validité de sa signature.

Il donne connaissance aux gendarmes des ordres du jour et du signalement des individus à rechercher: il fixe l'itinéraire des tournées, courses, et patrouilles, et prend, en un mot, toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour la bonne et prompte exécution du service.

Art. 44. Les Commandants de brigade sont chargés de tenir constamment à jour le "Registre de Service," qui sert à constater les opérations de la brigade.

Ce registre est divisé en 11 Chapitres, comme il suit :—

No. 1. Ordres du jour et circulaires;
No. 2. Rapports et correspondance;
No. 3. Inscription des mandats de justice;
No. 4. Procès-verbaux;
No. 5. Déserteurs signalés;
No. 6. Individus en surveillance;
No. 7. Transfèrement de prisonniers;
No. 8. Carnets de correspondance;
No. 9. Contrôle des gardes ruraux;
No. 10. Punitions;
No. 11. Contrôle des miliciens en congé.

Indépendamment de ce registre, les commandants de brigade résument, journellement, dans une feuille de service établie en double expédition, toutes les opérations faites par la brigade. Ces feuilles de service sont adressées, du 1er au 5 de chaque mois, au Commandant de section, pour le mois écoulé; les doubles de ces feuilles restent aux archives de la brigade.

Art. 45. En cas d'absence ou de maladie d'un Commandant de brigade, le commandement appartient au brigadier adjoint, dans les brigades où il s'en trouve, ou au gendarme de première classe le plus ancien; si ce gendarme est illettré, le Commandant de la compagnie charge de ce service un brigadier adjoint détaché de sa brigade à cet effet. Les registres sont remis, sur inventaire, au nouveau Commandant de brigade ou à l'intérimaire désigné.

V.—*Service Spécial de la Gendarmerie.*

Art. 46. Le service de la gendarmerie dans les départements se divise en service ordinaire et service extraordinaire.

Le service ordinaire est celui qui s'opère journellement ou à des époques périodiques sans qu'il soit besoin d'aucune réquision de la part des autorités administratives et judiciaires.

Le service extraordinaire est celui qui n'a lieu qu'en vertu d'ordres ou de réquisitions.

En ce qui concerne la gendarmerie mobile, le service ordinaire est celui de police urbaine au chef-lieu de la province; le service extraordinaire est celui qui lui est confié lorsqu'un détachement est dirigé, par ordre exprès du Gouverneur-Général, sur un point quelconque de la province.

Première Section.—*Service Ordinaire.*

Art. 47. Les fonctions habituelles et ordinaires des brigades sont de faire des tournées, courses, ou patrouilles sur les routes et chemins, dans les communes, hameaux, fermes et bois, enfin dans tous les lieux de leur circonscription respective.

Chaque commune doit être visitée au moins deux fois par mois. Les gendarmes s'informent près des Maires et adjoints, des habitants et des voyageurs des crimes et délits commis. Ils provoquent et reçoivent les déclarations des témoins et se mettent à la recherche des malfaiteurs signalés. Ils arrêtent et interrogent les vagabonds et examinent les passeports.

En cas d'arrestation, ils en dressent le procès-verbal aussitôt que possible, en demandant aux témoins de signer avec eux.

Art. 48. En cas d'incendie, d'inondation, et d'autres événements de ce genre, les

gendarmes se rendent sur les lieux au premier avis qui leur est donné ; ils ordonnent, en l'absence des autorités, les mesures d'urgence, dirigent le sauvetage, requièrent s'il est nécessaire le concours personnel des habitants, les moyens de transport, etc., et s'attachent à donner eux-mêmes l'exemple du calme, du zèle, et de l'abnégation.

En même temps, il se renseignent aussitôt que possible sur les causes du sinistre et en dressent procès-verbal. Si les déclarations inculpent quelque individu, ils le recherchent, l'interrogent, et, en cas de légitime suspicion, l'arrêtent immédiatement et le conduisent devant l'officier de police judiciaire du lieu.

Art. 49. Dans ses tournées, correspondances, patrouilles, et service habituel à la résidence, la gendarmerie exerce une surveillance active et persévérante sur les repris de justice, les condamnés libérés, et tous les individus signalés ; elle rend compte immédiatement de leur disparition, envoie leur signalement, et se met à leur recherche.

Elle exige avec fermeté l'exécution des lois et ordonnances de police, en observant un calme et une politesse qui n'autorisent aucune insulte.

Art. 50. Pour faire la recherche des personnes signalées ou dont l'arrestation a été légalement ordonnée, les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes visitent, à toute heure, les auberges, cabarets, et autres maisons ouvertes au public.

Par contre, ils ne peuvent pénétrer dans une maison privée :

Le jour, qu'en vertu d'un mandat spécial de perquisition ou pour un motif formellement exprimé par une loi ;

La nuit, que dans les cas d'incendie, d'inondation, ou d'appel venant de l'intérieur de la maison.

S'il y a lieu de supposer qu'un individu, prévenu de crime ou délit, ou déjà frappé d'un mandat d'arrestation, soit réfugié dans la maison d'un particulier, la gendarmerie se borne à garder à vue la maison ou à l'entourer, en attendant l'arrivée de l'autorité, qui a le droit d'exiger l'ouverture de la maison. Ce droit appartient d'ailleurs à ceux des membres de la gendarmerie qui sont investis des fonctions de Commissaire de Police.

Art. 51. Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ne peuvent, en l'absence de l'autorité administrative ou judiciaire, employer la force des armes qu'en cas de violences ou de voies de fait exercées contre eux, ou s'ils ne peuvent défendre autrement les personnes ou les positions dont la garde leur est confiée.

Dans aucun cas, ils ne doivent se dessaisir de leur prisonnier, ni quitter le terrain avant que l'ordre soit parfaitement rétabli.

Art. 52. La gendarmerie dissipe tous les rassemblements armés ou non armés, et réprime les émeutes et mouvements populaires dirigés contre la sûreté des personnes, contre les autorités, contre la liberté de l'industrie et du commerce, et contre le libre exercice des cultes reconnus par la loi ; elle saisit les perturbateurs, ainsi que ceux qui sont trouvés exerçant des voies de fait ou des violences contre les personnes.

Art. 53. Un des principaux devoirs de la gendarmerie étant de faire la police des routes et chemins et d'y maintenir la liberté des communications, elle doit empêcher les anticipations, les dépôts de fumiers ou d'autres objets encombrants, constater les dégradations commises sur les routes et sur les arbres qui les bordent, sur les fossés, ouvrages d'art et matériaux d'entretien, et dénoncer à l'autorité compétente les auteurs de ces délits ou contraventions. Elle s'oppose aux encombrements de voitures, rétablit la libre circulation, en procédant, au besoin, contre les réfractaires, et fait exécuter les ordonnances et règlements de police vicinale.

Art. 54. La gendarmerie est chargée de protéger l'agriculture et de saisir tout individus commettant des dégâts dans les champs et les bois, dégradant les haies, murs ou fossés, et tous ceux qui sont surpris commettant des larcins de fruits ou autres productions.

Art. 55. La gendarmerie porte la plus grande attention à tout ce qui intéresse la salubrité publique ; à ce titre :

1. Elle surveille les halles et marchés afin d'empêcher la vente de denrées et de comestibles gâtés ou corrompus ;

2. Elle fait brûler le foin ou la paille ayant pu servir de moyen de couchage à des personnes ou à des animaux malades d'affections contagieuses ;

3. Elle fait enterrer les animaux morts et empêche de dépouiller de leur peau ceux qui sont morts de maladies contagieuses ;

4. Elle surveille les cimetières, signale à l'autorité ceux qui ne seraient pas situés hors des limites des villes et villages, et exige que les inhumations soient faites à une profondeur d'au moins deux archines.

Art. 56. La gendarmerie doit toujours se tenir à portée des grands rassemblements

d'hommes, tels que foires, marchés, fêtes et cérémonies publiques, pour y maintenir le bon ordre et la sécurité ; elle fait, la nuit, des rondes et patrouilles pour assurer la sûreté des voies de communication et protéger tous les individus que leur commerce, leur industrie, ou leurs affaires obligent à voyager.

Art. 57. Il est spécialement prescrit à toutes les brigades de rechercher et d'arrêter les hommes de la milice signalés comme déserteurs ou insoumis.

La gendarmerie s'assure également que tous les miliciens en permission ou en congé sont munis d'un titre de permission, ou de congé, et les fait rejoindre leur corps en temps utile. A cet effet, tout milicien du cadre permanent, porteur d'un congé, doit présenter ce titre de congé au Commandant de la brigade de gendarmerie, qui le vise et qui inscrit son nom sur le registre de service indiqué à l'Article 44 ci-dessus.

Art. 58. Lors de l'appel des hommes de la milice pour les exercices bi-mensuels d'instruction, pour les manœuvres annuelles, ou pour toutes les circonstances de mobilisation totale ou partielle, la gendarmerie doit assurer l'affichage des ordres généraux, faire la transmission des ordres individuels, en réclamant, s'il est nécessaire, le concours des agents de la police rurale, et veiller à ce que tous les hommes appelés rejoignent sans retard, avec leurs papiers, le lieu de rassemblement désigné.

Art. 59. L'une des fonctions habituelles des brigades de gendarmerie est de correspondre entre elles sur des points déterminés par les Commandants de section et de compagnie. Les points de correspondance sont réglés de façon que la distance à parcourir soit à peu près égale des deux parts. Les gendarmes font l'échange des lettres et rapports ou des individus confiés à leur garde, ainsi que des renseignements verbaux qu'ils ont pu recueillir sur tous les objets qui intéressent la tranquillité publique.

Art. 60. Les ordres relatifs au transfert des prisonniers de brigade en brigade sont toujours donnés par les Commandants de section ou de compagnie. Les ordres sont écrits et individuels pour chaque prisonnier transféré.

Art. 61. Il est organisé, dans chaque siége de brigade, à défaut de maison d'arrêt ou de détention, un local de réclusion provisoire composé de deux Chambres au moins, de façon à pouvoir toujours séparer les prisonniers de sexes différents.

Les aliments sont fournis à ces prisonniers par les soins et aux frais des municipalités.

Si ces locaux de réclusion sont situés en dehors de la caserne de gendarmerie, l'Administration municipale en conserve la police, l'organisation, et l'entretien. Le Commandant de la brigade de gendarmerie doit toutefois pourvoir à la sûreté de ce local et veiller à ce que les mesures d'hygiène et de propreté y soient rigoureusement prises.

A défaut de moyens de surveillance suffisants, la gendarmerie peut, dans les cas exceptionnels, requérir des municipalités le concours d'une garde provisoire fournie par les habitants, et en prend de droit le commandement.

Art. 62. Les prisonniers transférés de brigade en brigade sont déposés, à l'arrivée au gîte, dans les locaux de réclusion indiqués à l'Article ci-dessus.

Dans les cas urgents ou lorsque l'intéressé déclare prendre à sa charge les frais de conduite et d'escorte, les individus arrêtés sont dirigés par les voies rapides sur le lieu de leur destination, si toutefois le déplacement des gendarmes chargés de l'escorte ne doit pas nuire au bien du service ordinaire de la brigade.

Les gendarmes chargés de la conduite de prisonniers empêchent qu'ils ne fassent usage de liqueurs fortes ; ils doivent faire preuve de vigilance et de fermeté pour prévenir les évasions, tout en évitant les rigueurs inutiles et les actes de brutalité qui sont sévèrement interdits.

Art. 63. L'emploi de chaînes ou de cordes n'est autorisé que dans des cas exceptionnels et seulement lorsque la force physique du prisonnier, son caractère, ou ses antécédents donnent lieu de craindre une tentative de révolte ou d'évasion, ou quand le nombre des prisonniers dépasse notablement celui des gendarmes chargés de la conduite. Dans aucun cas, les moyens d'attache ne doivent être de nature à blesser eux-mêmes les prisonniers.

Art. 64. Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes veillent à la subsistance des prisonniers et requièrent des municipalités les vivres nécessaires à ces derniers.

Si les prisonniers sont malades, ils leur donnent ou font donner les soins médicaux nécessaires, et, en cas d'urgence, les consignent à l'hôpital civil le plus proche.

Art. 65. D'une manière générale, les membres de la gendarmerie doivent comprendre leur mission comme ayant pour but exclusif de protéger les bons citoyens et non d'être à charge aux populations en leur imposant d'inutiles vexations. Le devoir

de tout Chef est d'attâcher à développer parmi ses subordonnés cette idée propre à faciliter la tâche délicate et souvent pénible imposée à la gendarmerie.

Deuxième Section.—*Service Extraordinaire.*

Art. 66. Le service extraordinaire des brigades consiste à prêter main-forte :—

1. Aux agents des différentes Administrations Financières dans le cas où leur autorité est publiquement violée et leur impuissance évidente, et où un retard d'action peut porter gravement atteinte aux intérêts du Trésor ;

2. Aux agents chargés de l'exécution de mandats et jugements de justice ;

3. Aux agents préposés à la surveillance de chemins de fer.

Art. 67. La gendarmerie fournit les escortes légalement demandées pour la conduite des fonds publics, des munitions de guerre, et des courriers intéressant la sûreté de la province. Les réquisitions relatives à ce service sont toujours faites par écrit et adressées au Chef supérieur du détachement de gendarmerie du lieu.

La gendarmerie peut, en ce cas, lorsque ses moyens sont insuffisants, requérir le concours d'une garde locale qui est placée sous ses ordres directs. Le Chef de l'escorte prend toutes les dispositions de prudence et de sûreté que commande la situation et demeure responsable des accidents survenus s'il ressort de l'examen des faits qu'il ait manqué de l'énergie ou de la surveillance nécessaires.

Art. 68. Quelle que puisse être la nature du service ordinaire ou extraordinaire qui lui est commandé, aucun gendarme ne peut, sans un ordre spécial, franchir la frontière de la Province de Roumélie Orientale.

VI.—*Ordre Intérieur.—Police et Discipline.*

Art. 69. Les membres du corps de la gendarmerie, quel que soit leur grade, ne peuvent se marier sans autorisation. L'autorisation est donné, pour les officiers, par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ; pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, par les Commandants de compagnie.

Les hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile ne sont autorisés à se marier qu'à la condition de passer dans la gendarmerie départementale.

Art. 70. Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, sont, autant que possible, logés dans les casernes ou dans les maisons qui en tiennent lieu. Les casernes sont bâties ou les maisons sont louées aux frais des départements.

Un gendarme doit toujours être de service à la caserne ; ce service est de vingt-quatre heures.

Lors même que les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ne sont pas casernés, il leur est défendu, ainsi, qu'à leurs femmes, de faire commerce, de tenir auberge ou cabaret, ni d'exercer aucun métier ou aucune profession manuelle.

Art. 71. Il est défendu à tout membre du corps de la gendarmerie, sous peine d'exclusion du service et sans préjudice de peines prévues par le Code Pénal, d'accepter des cadeaux ou de l'argent de qui que ce soit.

Les uns et les autres ne peuvent entrer dans les cabarets et débits de boissons que pour affaires de service ; ils doivent toujours s'y conduire avec prudence et dignité.

Art. 72. Sont réputés fautes contre discipline—

De la part des supérieurs : tout propos injurieux ou humiliant envers leurs subordonnés, toute punition injustement infligée, et tout abus d'autorité à leur égard ; toute négligence à punir les fautes de leurs inférieurs et à rendre compte à leurs chefs.

De la part des inférieurs : tout défaut d'obéissance, tout murmure, mauvais propos, ou signe de mécontentement envers un supérieur ; tout manquement au respect ; toute violation de punition disciplinaire ; toute marque de conduite irrégulière, dettes, jeu, querelles, ivrognerie, liaisons illégitimes, &c. ; enfin, tout ce qui, dans la conduite ou dans la vie habituelle, s'écarte de la règle, de l'ordre, ou de l'esprit d'obéissance et de déférence que le subordonné doit à ses chefs.

Art. 73. Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ne peuvent être punis que par leurs chefs hiérarchiques, dans les limites indiquées aux Articles ci-après.

Toutes les fois qu'un fonctionnaire de l'ordre administratif ou judiciaire croit avoir à se plaindre d'un membre du corps de la gendarmerie, il adresse sa plainte au Chef du détachement, qui inflige une punition proportionnée à la gravité de la faute.

Les officiers et sous-officers de la milice en service peuvent, de même, adresser des plaintes contre les membres du corps de la gendarmerie, en les faisant toujours passer par la voie hiérarchique.

Art. 74. Les peines disciplinaires sont, pour les officiers :

Les arrêts simples ; la réprimande publique ; les arrêts de rigueur ; la prison.

Les arrêts simples sont gardés au domicile ordinaire de l'officier ; ils n'exemptent d'aucun service.

La réprimande a lieu en présence de plusieurs officiers d'un grade égal ou supérieur réunis à cet effet.

Les arrêts de rigueur sont gardés au domicile ordinaire de l'officier auquel on retire son sabre ou son épée et à la porte de qui on place une sentinelle.

La peine de prison est subie au chef-lieu de la province, dans un local spécialement affecté à cet usage.

Les arrêts simples peuvent être infligés aux officiers par tout officier du corps, supérieur en grade ; leur durée ne peut excéder trente jours.

Les arrêts de rigueur sont infligés seulement par l'officer supérieur inspecteur ou par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ; leur durée ne peut excéder quinze jours.

La punition de la prison ne peut être infligée que par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et pour une durée *maxima* de quinze jours.

Art. 75. Le lieutenant peut infliger quatre jours d'arrêts simples au sous-lieutenant sous ses ordres ;

Le capitaine, huit jours d'arrêts simples ou la réprimande aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ;

Le major, huit jours d'arrêts simples aux capitaines et quinze jours aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ;

L'officier supérieur inspecteur, quinze jours d'arrêts simple aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants, ou huit jours d'arrêts de rigueur aux capitaines et quinze jours de la même peine aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants.

L'officier supérieur inspecteur peut aussi infliger la réprimande à tout officier subalterne.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie peut infliger le maximum de chacune des peines sus-énoncées aux officiers de tous grades sous ces ordres

La punition d'arrêts de rigueur et celle de la prison entraînent une réduction de la solde, comme il est indiqué à l'Article 95 ci-après.

Art. 76. Tout officier, lors même qu'il se croit injustement puni, doit d'abord se soumettre à la punition disciplinaire prononcée contre lui ; mais il peut, après avoir obéi, adresser sa réclamation à l'officier immédiatement supérieur à celui qui l'a puni.

Les réclamations non justifiées peuvent donner lieu à des augmentations prononcées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Toutes les punitions infligées aux officiers sont portées, soit au registre spécial tenu, dans les compagnies, pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants, soit sur un registre spécial, tenu, à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, pour les capitaines et officiers supérieurs.

Art. 77. Les punitions disciplinaires à infliger aux sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes sont :

La consigne à la caserne ; la salle de police ; la prison.

Ces punitions ne peuvent être infligées pour plus de trente jours.

Art. 78. Les punitions sont infligées de la manière suivante :—

Par les Commandants de brigade, quatre jours de consigne ;

Par les Commandants de section, huit jours de consigne, quatre jours de salle de police, et deux jours de prison ;

Par les Commandants de compagnie et par les majors, quinze jours de consigne, huit jours de salle de police et quatre jours de prison.

L'officier supérieur inspecteur et le Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile, dans ce corps, peuvent ordonner trente jours de consigne, quinze jours de salle de police, et huit jours de prison.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie peut infliger le maximum de toutes les peines.

Art. 79. Si, cependant, un membre du corps commet une faute contre la discipline de nature à mériter une plus forte punition, le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie est autorisé à le retenir en prison jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été statué sur une

proposition de révocation, de suspension, de cassation, ou de rétrogradation. Dans aucun cas, la durée de cette peine ne peut excéder deux mois.

Art. 80. Les punitions de salle de police et de prison sont toujours subies, pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes, au chef-lieu de la section où un local spécial est aménagé à cet usage.

Art. 81. Les suspensions, rétrogradations ou cassations des sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes de première classe sont prononcées, conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XIII, Article 23, par le Gouverneur-Général ou par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Elles sont toujours mises à l'ordre du jour du corps avec indication des motifs.

Art. 82. Les propositions relatives à la résiliation des contrats des officiers étrangers admis au service de la gendarmerie, conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XIII, Article 20, sont présentées au Gouverneur-Général par le Conseil Privé ou par la majorité des membres de ce Conseil.

Le Gouverneur-Général les soumet, avec le dossier à l'appui, à l'examen du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale, qui décide à la majorité des voix.

Art. 83. Les propositions relatives à la suspension ou à la révocation des officiers indigènes sont soumises au Conseil Privé par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Les causes qui, par mesure de discipline, peuvent entraîner la suspension ou la révocation d'un officier sont :—

L'inconduite habituelle, les fautes graves dans le service ou contre la discipline: les fautes contre l'honneur; la condamnation à un imprisonnement de plus de six mois.

Si l'officier révoqué compte plus de quinze années de services effectifs, il peut lui être alloué, sur la proposition du Consul Privé, une gratification de réforme proportionnelle au nombre de ses années de service, à la condition qu'il ne se soit pas rendu coupable d'une faute contre l'honneur.

VII.—*Remonte.—Fourrages.*

Art. 84. Tous les officiers de gendarmerie, à l'exception des officiers chargés de l'administration dont le service est purement sédentaire, et tous les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes à cheval, à l'exception des secrétaires permanents et garde-magasins, doivent être constamment pourvus du nombre de chevaux fixé, pour chaque grade, par le Tableau ci-après :—

Officier supérieur inspecteur, trois chevaux.
Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile, deux chevaux.
Chef de la Chancellerie, deux chevaux.
Commandant de campagne, deux chevaux.
Commandant de section, un cheval.
Commandant de peloton de la gendarmerie mobile, un cheval.
Sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme à cheval, un cheval.

Art. 85. Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes à cheval de la gendarmerie départementale sont tenus de se remonter à leurs frais dans les quinze jours qui suivent leur entrée en fonctions.

Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et cavaliers de gendarmerie mobile sont, comme les autres membres du corps, remontés avec des chevaux qui leur appartiennent, mais dans les conditions spéciales indiquées à l'Article 89 ci-après.

Art. 86. Tout membre monté de la gendarmerie, à l'exception des hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile, reçoit, lors de son entrée en fonctions, une indemnité représentative du prix d'achat de chacun des chevaux auxquels il a droit.

Le paiement de cette indemnité est renouvelable tous les cinq ans.

Le chiffre de l'indemnité est de £ T. 20 par cheval d'officier et de £ T. 10 par gendarme.

Tout membre monté du corps de la gendarmerie, qui quitte le service avant l'expiration du terme de cinq années indiqué ci-dessus, est tenu de rembourser au Trésor une somme proportionnelle au nombre d'années manquant et au chiffre de l'indemnité reçue. S'il n'est pas en état d'acquitter cette dette, le cheval est vendu par les soins du corps et l'excédant du prix de vente est seulement remis à l'intéressé ou à ses ayants-droit.

Art. 87. Les chevaux d'officiers sont reçus sans contrôle autre que celui qu'exercent, lors des inspections, les Commandants de compagnie et l'officier supérieur inspecteur; celui-là a qualité pour obliger tout officier subalterne à remplacer immédiatement une monture jugée incapable de faire son service.

Les chevaux des hommes de troupe sont reçus par une Commission composée du Commandant de compagnie, de l'officier de section, et d'un vétérinaire et d'un sous-officier. Les chevaux doivent être âgés de 4 ans au moins et de 8 ans au plus, et être exempts de tares susceptibles de les mettre promptement hors de service.

L'officier supérieur inspecteur prononce la réforme de ceux qui ne sont plus aptes à servir, et donne un avis motivé sur la demande d'indemnité qui peut en être la suite, d'après les dispositions de l'Article 88 ci-après.

Art. 88. Si un membre monté de la gendarmerie vient à perdre son cheval avant l'expiration du délai de cinq années prévu à l'Article 86, il lui est alloué :

Si le cheval a été tué, est mort, ou a été réformé par suite de blessures reçues ou de maladies contractées dans le service, une indemnité pour perte de chevaux égale aux deux tiers de l'indemnité représentative d'achat;

Si le cheval est mort ou a été réformé par suite d'une maladie épidémique ou contagieuse, ou d'une affection accidentelle autre que celles prévues à l'alinéa précédent, une indemnité égale à la moitié de l'indemnité représentative d'achat.

Dans l'un et l'autre cas, la demande adressée au Conseil d'Administration du corps pour le paiement de cette indemnité est accompagnée d'un procès-verbal de perte ou de vente, d'un certificat du vétérinaire, et d'un Rapport spécial du Commandant de section ou de compagnie dégageant la responsabilité du propriétaire du cheval.

Le prix de vente du cheval réformé est porté en déduction des indemnités prévues aux alinéas précédents.

Art. 89. Pour la remonte des hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile à cheval, il est formé une Commission d'achat composée: du Commandant du demi-escadron, d'un officier, et d'un vétérinaire.

Le cheval est présenté à la Commission par le sous-officier, brigadier ou gendarme intéressé; la Commission décide de l'admission ou du rejet du cheval, sans intervenir dans la discussion du prix.

L'indemnité représentative d'achat est versée aux mains du gendarme aussitôt après la réception du cheval.

Art. 90. Il est alloué à tous les membres montés de la gendarmerie départementale, pour chacun des chevaux auxquels ils ont droit et à défaut de rations de fourrages directement fournies par les magasins militaires, une indemnité journalière de fourrages dont le chiffre est fixé comme il suit :—

Chevaux d'officiers : par cheval et par jour, 4 piastres;
Chevaux de troupe : par cheval et par jour, 3½ piastres.

Cette indemnité est payée par mois, à terme échu, et pour autant de jours que le cheval a figuré sur les contrôles de la compagnie.

S'il ressort des observations faites, lors de deux revues successives, par les Commandants de section, qu'un gendarme abuse de la liberté relative qui lui est laissée pour ne pas nourrir convenablement son cheval, le Commandant de compagnie peut, en dehors de punition disciplinaire infligée à l'homme, ordonner que le cheval en question soit temporairement nourri par les soins du chef de la brigade qui reçoit, pendant ce temps, l'indemnité représentative de fourrages.

Art. 91. En ce qui concerne la gendarmerie mobile, les fourrages sont achetés directement par la Commission de remonte de l'escadron.

Le corps reçoit à cet effet le montant de l'indemnité représentative de fourrages pour tous les chevaux inscrits sur les contrôles. Cette indemnité est payée par mois et d'avance. Les paiements aux fournisseurs sont faits par les soins de l'officier trésorier sur la présentation des bons de livraisons fournis par le corps.

S'il vient à être formé un détachement trop faible pour que le fonctionnement de ce service puisse être assuré, les hommes perçoivent directement l'indemnité dans les mêmes conditions que ceux de la gendarmerie départementale.

VIII.—*Solde.—Indemnités.—Gratifications.*

Art. 92. Le service de la solde a pour objet de pourvoir à toutes les prestations en deniers attribuées, soit individuellement aux membres de tous grades du corps de la gendarmerie, soit collectivement aux compagnies ou au corps mobile dont ils font partie.

Les prestations qui ressortissent du service de la solde sont :—

La solde; les accessories de solde; les gratifications et indemnités extraordinaires.

Sauf le cas de guerre, ces prestations sont affectées à toutes les dépenses de sub-

sistance, de chauffage et d'éclairage auxquelles les membres du corps de la gendarmerie sont tenus de pourvoir eux-mêmes.

Art. 93. On distingue deux espèces principales de solde :—

La solde d'activité ; et la solde de non-activité.

Art. 94. Aucun membre de la gendarmerie ne peut jouir de la solde d'activité s'il n'est en activité de service ; l'activité commence pour lui du jour où il a prêté le serment indiqué à l'Article 1 ci-dessus.

Le droit à la solde d'activité cesse :—

Pour les officiers de la gendarmerie, le lendemain du jour ou ils ont reçu la notification de leur suspension, de leur révocation, de l'admission de leur démission, ou de leur mise à la retraite ;

Pour les hommes de troupe, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu : leur congé définitif, l'avis de leur admission à la retraite ou, sans autre notification, le lendemain du jour où expire leur engagement.

Art. 95. Jusqu'au premier budget voté par l'Assemblée Provinciale, la solde d'activité, pour les membres de la gendarmerie des différents grades, qui ne sont pas liés au service par des contrats personnels et spéciaux, est fixée par le Tableau ci-après.

Grades.	Par An.	Par Mois.
	£ T.	£ T.
Colonel	480	40
Lieutenant-Colonel	360	30
Major	300	25
Capitaine	192	16
Lieutenant	156	13
Sous-Lieutenant	132	11
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Maréchal-des-logis Chef	4,800	400
Maréchal-des-logis	4,000	350
Brigadier	3,600	300
Gendarme de 1re Classe	3,000	250
„ 2me Classe	2,640	220

La solde des sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes à cheval est augmentée :—

De 2 piastres par jour pour les sous-officiers ;

De 60 paras „ „ brigadiers ;

De 40 paras „ „ gendarmes.

Art. 96. La solde des membres du corps, liés au service en vertu de contrats est fixée, pour chacun d'eux, par le contrat lui-même. Ces contrats sont établis pour une durée de trois ans au moins et six ans au plus ; leur résiliation anticipée donne droit au paiement à l'intéressé d'un délit pécuniaire égal à la moitié de la solde d'activité pour le nombre d'années restant à courir.

Art. 97. La solde est payée, pour les membres de tous grades de la gendarmerie, par mois et à terme échu, à raison du nombre de journées passées en activité dans le mois.

Le mois est toujours calculé à raison de trente jours.

Art. 98. La solde est réduite à la moitié du Tarif pour tout militaire de la gendarmerie qui jouit d'un congé d'une durée supérieure à trente jours, à moins qu'une décision spéciale du Gouverneur-Général ne lui accorde exceptionnellement la solde entière. La durée des congés à solde entière ne peut, sauf le cas de maladie, dépasser deux mois consécutifs.

L'indemnité représentative de fourrages continue à être payée à tout militaire de la gendarmerie en congé, pour les chevaux dont il est régulièrement pourvu.

D'une manière générale et sauf le cas de délégation prévu à l'Article 102 ci-après, la solde de congé est payée seulement au retour de l'officier, du sous-officier, du brigadier, ou du gendarme en congé.

Art. 99. Le membre de la gendarmerie qui dépasse de plus de vingt-quatre heures la durée de son congé ou de sa permission, peut, sauf le cas de force majeure, être privé de tout rappel de solde par décision du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

L'indemnité représentative de fourrages est payée mensuellement, en l'absence du membre de la gendarmerie en congé, aux mains de son fondé de pouvoirs accrédité près du Commandant de compagnie ou du Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes allant en congé sont payés

de leur solde d'activité jusqu'au jour de leur départ exclusivement ; ils recouvrent leurs droits à la solde entière à compter du lendemain du jour où ils rentrent à leur poste.

Art. 100. La solde de tout membre du corps de la gendarmerie à l'hôpital est égale à la solde d'activité, déduction faite du prix des journées de traitement, qui sont directement payées à l'hôpital par les soins des Commandants de compagnie ou du Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Art. 101. Les officiers aux arrêts de rigueur ou en prison, les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes à qui il a été infligé une peine disciplinaire de prison, et tous les membres du corps en jugement ou en détention reçoivent, pendant ce temps et aux dates assignées pour le paiement de la solde d'activité, une solde égale, pour les officiers à la moitié, pour les hommes de troupe aux deux tiers de la solde d'activité.

Art. 102. Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes en mission, en campagne, ou en congé régulier, ont la faculté de déléguer, en faveur de leur famille ou de toute autre personne, jusqu'à concurrence du quart de la solde du grade dont ils sont pourvus au moment de leur départ.

Ils doivent, à cet effet, remettre, avant leur départ, au Commandant de la compagnie ou au Conseil d'Administration du corps, une déclaration écrite, signée par deux témoins et indiquant le chiffre de la portion déléguée, les époques de paiement et la personne ou les personnes en faveur de qui la délégation est consentie.

Les délégations ne sont valables que pour une année ; elles peuvent être renouvelées avec l'approbation du Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Art. 103. Tout membre de la gendarmerie envoyé, par un ordre spécial, en mission extraordinaire hors des limites de son ressort a droit :

1. A une indemnité de déplacement ;
2. A des frais de route calculés en raison de la distance parcourue.

Il peut également, par décision du Gouverneur-Général, être alloué une indemnité, dite de rassemblement, à tous les membres du corps employés dans une localité où les circonstances ou la réunion momentanée de nombreuses troupes rendent les conditions de la vie plus onéreuses.

Art. 104. L'indemnité de déplacement est payée à raison du nombre de jours passés en dehors des limites du ressort ordinaire de l'officier, sous officier, brigadier, ou gendarme.

Elle est de :

30 piastres par jour pour les officiers supérieurs ;

20 piastres par jour pour les officiers subalternes ;

5 piastres par jour pour les sous-officiers et brigadiers ;

3 piastres par jour pour les sous-officiers et gendarmes.

Art. 105. Les frais de route sont alloués en raison de la distance kilométrique ; ils sont payés d'avance toutes les fois que l'officier ou gendarme en fait la demande.

Si le voyage se fait par les routes de terre, les frais de route sont payés :

Pour les officiers supérieurs, à raison de 3 piastres par kilomètre ; pour les officiers subalternes, à raison de 2 piastres par kilomètre ; pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, à raison d'une ½ piastre par kilomètre.

Si le voyage se fait par mer ou par chemin de fer, les frais de route sont égaux au prix du passage sur les paquebots ou chemins de fer :

En première classe pour les officiers supérieurs ;

En deuxième classe pour les officiers subalternes :

En troisième classe pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes.

Art. 106. Le taux de l'indemnité de rassemblement et celui des frais de route pour les cas exceptionnels, tels qu'un voyage en mer sur des points où il n'existe pas de service régulier de bateaux, &c. . . ., sont fixés par décisions spéciales du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 107. Les frais de route et l'indemnité de déplacement ne sont pas alloués aux officiers du corps de la gendarmerie pour leurs tournées réglementaires. Il est fait exception à cette règle pour les inspections de l'officier supérieur inspecteur et du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 108. La haute-paie journalière d'ancienneté prévue au Chapitre XIII, Article 27, est de 20 paras par jour ; elle est payée à partir du premier jour de la cinquième année de service dans la gendarmerie.

Art. 109. La haute-paie s'augmente annuellement de 20 paras pour les sous-

officiers et de 10 paras pour les brigadiers et gendarmes de façon à atteindre, le premier jour de la huitième année, la somme de 2 piastres pour les sous-officiers et de 50 paras pour les brigadiers et les gendarmes.

A partir de ce point, la haute-paie journalière cesse de croître et demeure constante pour les hommes de troupe rengagés, quel que soit leur grade.

Art. 110. Lorsque les officiers du corps de la gendarmerie ne sont pas logés dans les bâtiments spéciaux, fournis et meublés aux frais des départements et de la province, il leur est alloué une indemnité de logement et d'ameublement fixée comme il suit :

Pour les officiers supérieurs, £ T. 8 par mois ;

Pour les capitaines, £ T. 2 par mois :

Pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants, £ T. $2\frac{1}{2}$ par mois.

L'indemnité de logement continue à être payée aux officiers en permission dont l'absence ne dépasse pas trente jours, aux officiers malades, en traitement chez eux ou à l'hôpital.

Art. 111. Une indemnité spéciale de frais de bureau est allouée :—

Au Chef de la Chancellerie ; à l'officier trésorier ; à l'officier d'habillement ; aux Commandants de compagnie ; aux Commandants de section ; aux Commandants de brigade.

Le chiffre de ces indemnités est fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général en raison des besoins constatés et dans les limites des crédits alloués.

Art. 112. Tout sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme a droit, depuis le moment de son entrée au service, s'il n'est logé chez l'habitant, à une indemnité journalière de literie de 20 paras.

Cette indemnité n'est pas payé aux hommes de la gendarmerie mobile, s'ils sont logés en caserne et pourvus de lits de troupe.

Art. 113. Les sous-officiers promus officiers de gendarmerie reçoivent une gratification de première mise et d'équipement fixée :—

Pour l'arme à cheval à £ T. 20 ;

Pour l'arme à pied à £ T. 15.

Art. 114. Les gratifications pour bons services prévues à l'Article 10 du présent Règlement peuvent être appliquées aux officiers eux-mêmes jusqu'aux grade de capitaine inclusivement. Leur chiffre est fixé par la decision du Gouverneur-Général qui les accorde ; elles sont prélevées sur un fonds spécial de gratifications et de secours.

Il en est de même pour les gratifications, renouvelables ou non, accordées à d'anciens membres du corps de la gendarmerie, malades ou infirmes, à leurs veuves, ou à leurs orphelins.

Art. 115. La solde de non activité est due seulement aux officiers suspendus par mesure de discipline ou pour infirmités temporaires.

Dans le premier cas elle est :—

Pour les officiers supérieurs, liés ou non au service par contrat, de la moitié de leur solde sans accessoires ; pour les officiers subalternes des deux tiers de leur solde sans accessoires.

Dans le deuxième cas elle est :—

Pour les officiers supérieurs, liés ou non au service par contrat, des deux tiers de la solde sans accessoires ; pour les officiers subalternes, des trois quarts de la solde sans accessoires.

IX.—*Habillement.—Equipement.—Harnachement.—Armement.*

Art. 116. La tenue des gendarmes à cheval de la gendarmerie départementale est la suivante :—

Tunique non ajustée en drap bleu du pays, avec deux rangs de six boutons en cuivre uni et serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons. Parements et passepoils rouges au bord de la tunique, aux coutures et au tour des manches. Col en drap de fond orné sur le devant de pattes rouges fixées par un bouton. Pattes d'épaules en drap rouge.

Pantalon de même étoffe que la tunique avec passepoil rouge.

Bottes, avec éperons en fer poli, portées par dessus le pantalon.

Aiguillettes en laine rouge portées sur l'épaule droite.

Ceinture rouge à filets bleus portée par dessus la tunique.

Capote en drap gris du pays, avec deux rangs de six boutons en cuivre uni, pattes d'épaules en drap rouge, et serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons.

Bachelik en drap gris.

Les hommes à cheval de la gendarmerie mobile ont le même uniforme, avec cette différence que les revers, pattes, et passepoils sont en drap blanc au lieu d'être rouges ; les aiguillettes sont en coton blanc, les boutons sont blancs.

Art. 117. La tenue des gendarmes à pied de la gendarmerie départementale est du même modèle que celle de la gendarmerie à cheval, avec cette différence que la tunique et le pantalon sont en drap gris du pays et que les hommes ne portent pas d'éperons

Les gendarmes à pied de la gendarmerie mobile ont le même uniforme que ceux de la gendarmerie départementale, avec pattes, revers et passepoils en drap blanc, aiguillettes en coton blanc et boutons blancs.

En été, les gendarmes à pied et à cheval remplacent la tunique en drap par une blouse en toile blanche avec pattes d'épaules mobiles en drap rouge ; la blouse se porte sans aiguillettes.

Art. 118. Les grades sont marqués : pour les brigadiers, par une double tresse en laine blanche ou rouge cousue transversalement sur la patte d'épaule ; pour les Maréchaux-des-logis, par un galon d'or ou d'argent posé sur le haut du col et sur les revers des manches de la tunique ou de la capote, et par une triple tresse en laine rouge ou blanche sur la patte d'épaule ; pour les Maréchaux-des-logis-chefs, par un galon d'or ou d'argent posé dans les mêmes conditions au col et aux manches et par un galon de métal de même largeur posé sur la patte d'épaule.

Art. 119. Les officiers de la gendarmerie départementale et de la gendarmerie mobile ont un uniforme de la même couleur et du même modèle que celui de leurs hommes. Ils portent les aiguillettes en or et les boutons dorés, dans la gendarmerie départementale ; les aiguillettes d'argent et les boutons argentés, dans la gendarmerie mobile.

Tous les officiers, étant montés, portent les éperons d'ordonnance. Tous ont également la ceinture tressée en soie rouge et or, ou en soie rouge et argent.

Les grades se distinguent, comme dans les corps provisoires organisés pendant l'occupation, par des étoiles posées sur des pattes d'épaules en or ou en argent suivant le métal du bouton.

Art. 120. L'équipement et l'armement des hommes à cheval de la gendarmerie se compose :

D'un kalpak en peau de mouton noir frisé, avec dessus en drap rouge, orné, sur le devant, d'un écusson en cuivre avec l'inscription : "Gendarmerie Indigène."

D'un cordon de revolver de la couleur des aiguillettes ;

D'un sifflet pendu à un cordon noir ;

D'un sabre de cavalerie, avec fourreau en métal, suspendu à un ceinturon à deux bélières en cuir rouge ou blanc se portant sous la tunique ;

D'une dragonne en cuir rouge ou blanc ;

D'une plaque de forme ovale, en cuivre poli, placée au côté gauche de la poitrine et portant le numéro d'ordre du sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme ;

D'une cartouchière en cuire fauve, pour le service à cheval ;

D'un revolver d'ordonnance, avec étui en cuir fauve fixé au côté droit du ceinturon ;

D'un fusil de cavalerie du système adopté pour la milice ; ce fusil ne se porte que pour le service à cheval.

L'équipement et l'armement des gendarmes à pied se compose, outre le kalpak, le cordon de revolver, le sifflet, la plaque numérotée et le revolver :

D'un fusil d'infanterie ;

D'un sabre Circassien suspendu par un baudrier en cuir noir porté sur l'épaule droite ;

D'une cartouchière en cuir noir et d'un sac-musette en toile pour le service extérieur ou en troupe.

Art. 121. Les officiers ont : le kalpak avec écusson en cuivre doré ou argenté, le cordon de revolver en or ou en argent, le sabre d'officier de cavalerie avec ceinturon, bélières, et dragonne en or ou en argent, et le revolver d'ordonnance.

Hors du service et pendant l'été, quand l'ordre en est donné par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, on peut substituer au kalpak d'ordonnance un bonnet de police. Cette coiffure est de même étoffe et de même couleur que la tunique, avec un bandeau de la couleur de la patte d'épaule des hommes de troupe. Les grades des officiers sont marqués, sur le bonnet de police, par des soutaches d'or ou d'argent.

Art. 122. Le harnachement se compose jusqu'à nouvel ordre, de la selle et de la bride Circassiennes.

Art. 123. Les effets d'habillement, d'équipement, et d'armement, ainsi que le linge et la chaussure, sont fournis aux hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie par les magasins du corps.

Chaque homme reçoit en double la tunique, le pantalon, les bottes, la blouse d'été; en simple tous les autres effets.

La durée réglementaire des effets est de :—

Dix-huit mois pour la tunique; un an pour le pantalon; deux ans pour la capote; deux ans pour le bachelik; deux ans pour le kalpak; un an pour les aiguillettes; un an pour la ceinture; deux ans pour le cordon de revolver; deux ans pour le ceinturon et la dragonne; six ans pour l'étui de revolver; six ans pour le baudrier de sabre; six ans pour la cartouchière; six ans pour la bretelle de fusil.

L'écusson du kalpak, la plaque numérotée, le sabre, le revolver, et le fusil restent indéfiniment en service. Leur remplacement ou les réparations nécessitées par la négligence sont imputées à la charge de l'homme, sans préjudice des dispositions pénales pour vente, abandon, ou dégradation volontaire d'armes ou d'effets.

Art. 124. Les effets d'habillement, d'équipement, et d'armement sont déposés dans un magasin central placé sous la surveillance directe de l'officier d'habillement du corps de la gendarmerie.

Il est créé, dans chaque compagnie départementale, un petit dépôt destiné à subvenir au remplacement normal des effets en cours de service dans la compagnie; ces dépôts sont placés sous la surveillance du Commandant de chaque compagnie, qui est responsable de leur gestion, et, sauf le cas de force majeure, de la conservation des effets.

Les livraisons et remplacements d'effets sont ordonnés, dans chaque compagnie, par le Capitaine commandant la compagnie, sur la présentation d'un bon nominatif établi par le Commandant de section. Avant d'être livrés à l'homme, ils sont empreints des marques particulières au corps et à la compagnie et du numéro matricule de l'homme.

Il est fait mention de la livraison sur le livret individuel de l'homme, avec indication de la durée légale et du prix de l'effet.

Les livraisons d'effets, pour les hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile, sont faites directement au magasin du corps, comme il est indiqué à l'Article 147 ci-après.

Art. 125. Les effets appartenant à tout homme de troupe de la gendarmerie arrivé au terme de son engagement et non rengagé, licencié, retraité, ou mort, sont versés au magasin de la compagnie s'ils n'ont pas atteint le terme de leur durée légale.

Ces effets peuvent être distribués de nouveau comme effets de seconde tenue, avec une durée réduite de tout le temps pendant lequel ils ont déjà été en service.

Art. 126. Tout remplacement d'effets opéré avant le terme réglementaire peut donner lieu à une retenue faite sur la solde de l'homme et calculée d'après la longueur de l'anticipation et le prix d'achat de l'effet.

Art. 127. L'achat des effets de harnachement, d'écurie, et de pansage reste à la charge des hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie.

Les effets sont fournis, contre remboursement, par les magasins du corps.

X.—*Administration.*

Art. 128. L'Administration et la comptabilité générale du corps de la gendarmerie sont dirigées par le Conseil d'Administration, dont la composition est déterminée à l'Article 14 du Chapitre XIII du Statut.

Les deux agents d'exécution directs de ce Conseil, sont l'officier trésorier et l'officier d'habillement.

Art. 129. L'officier trésorier remplit les fonctions de secrétaire près du Conseil d'Administration. Il est chargé, sous la direction et la surveillance de ce Conseil, de faire toutes les recettes et d'acquitter toutes les dépenses prévues par les règlements. Il est responsable de tous les fonds qu'il a été chargé de recevoir, jusqu'à ce qu'il les ait versés dans la Caisse du corps, et de ceux que le Conseil met à sa disposition pour les dépenses du corps. Il est également responsable envers le Conseil d'Administration, de la régularité des paiements et de la tenue de ses registres.

Il correspond, en qualité de secrétaire du Conseil d'Administration, avec les Commandants de la compagnie et de section, ainsi que pour tout ce qui est relatif à la

solde, aux indemnités, aux gratifications, et à la transmission des mandats; pièces comptables, imprimés, &c.

Il tient les registres dont le détail est donné ci-après, et, en particulier, les Registres-Matricules des officiers, sous officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes.

Art. 130. L'officier d'habillement est membre responsable du Conseil d'Administration. Il est, en outre, personnellement responsable des étoffes, matières, et effets de toute nature versés dans les magasins du corps, ainsi que de la régularité des distributions et de la tenue des registres.

Il est chargé, sous la direction et le contrôle du Conseil d'Administration, de la réception des effets d'habillement, d'équipement, et de harnachement livrés par le commerce, et de leur distribution. Il l'est également en ce qui concerne l'armement.

Il rédige les marchés soumis à l'approbation du Conseil, et la correspondance avec les fournisseurs ou avec les Commandants de compagnie, pour tout ce qui concerne son service.

Art. 131. Le Conseil d'Administration du corps de la gendarmerie gère directement la compagnie et le demi-escadron de la gendarmerie mobile.

Art. 132. Les écritures et opérations auxquelles donne lieu l'administration et la comptabilité du corps sont consignées dans une série de registres et documents dont les principaux sont indiqués ci-après :—

Registres tenus par le Trésorier.

1. Registres des délibérations du Conseil d'Administration.
2. Registre de correspondance du Conseil.
3. Registre-Matricule des officiers.
4. Registre-Matricule des hommes de troupe.
5. Registre-Matricule des chevaux.
6. Registres des situations journalières de l'effectif.
7. Livret de solde.
8. Carnet de caisse.
9. Livret des comptes ouverts avec le Trésor.
10. Registre-journal des recettes et dépenses.
11. Registre de centralisation des recettes et dépenses.
12. Registre du service des indemnités de route et de déplacement.
13. Carnet des fonds divers.
14. Registre des comptes ouverts avec la gendarmerie mobile et avec les compagnies.

Registres tenus par l'Officier d'Habillement.

1. Registre-journal des entrées et sorties du magasin central du corps.
2. Registres des inventaires.
3. Registre des recettes et consommations du service de l'habillement, de l'équipement, et de l'armement.
4. Registre des recettes et consommations du service du harnachement.
5. Registre des comptes ouverts avec les compagnies et avec la gendarmerie mobile.
6. Livret d'armement.
7. Contrôle générale des armes.
8. Livret des munitions.

Art. 133. Les Commandants de compagnie de la gendarmerie départementale remplissent, pour leur compagnie, les fonctions d'officiers trésoriers et d'officiers d'habillement; ils sont responsables des fonds en caisse et de la conservation et de la distribution des effets et des armes déposés dans le magasin de la compagnie.

A ce titre, ils sont en correspondance directe avec l'officier trésorier et avec l'officier d'habillement du corps pour tout ce qui a trait au service des prestations en argent et en nature dues à leur compagnie.

Ils tiennent, à cet effet :—

1. Un registre de correspondance avec le trésorier et avec l'officier d'habillement.
2. Un registre-Matricule des officiers, des hommes, et des chevaux de leur compagnie;
3. Un registre des situations journalières d'effectif;
4. Un registre journalier des recettes et dépenses;
5. Un livret de solde;

6. Un registre des recettes et consommations du service de l'habillement, de l'équipement, de l'armement, et du harnachement;

7. Un registre des comptes ouverts avec les brigades;

8. Un livret d'armement;

9. Un livret des munitions.

Art. 134. Les Registres-Matricules des officiers et de la troupe sont destinés à recevoir l'inscription détaillée: de l'état civil des membres du corps; de leur signalement; de leurs services; &c.

Les Registres-Matricules des chevaux sont destinés à recevoir les inscriptions suivantes: numéros matricules des chevaux: noms des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, ou gendarmes qui en sont détenteurs; signalement et origine des chevaux; date de leur réception et prix d'achat; prix d'estimation aux différentes revues; date et cause des pertes.

Art. 135. Les registres des situations journalières d'effectif sont destinés à recevoir, jour par jour, l'inscription des mutations (tant en hommes qu'en chevaux) survenues dans le corps ou dans la compagnie.

Art. 136. Le registre-journal reçoit l'inscription de toutes les recettes faites pour le compte du corps ou de la compagnie et de toutes les sommes qui sortent de la Caisse à titre de paiement.

Art. 137. Le registre des recettes et consommations du service de l'habillement, &c., est destiné à recevoir l'inscription des entrées et sorties des magasins; il est divisé en quatre Chapitres:—

Chapitre 1. Effets d'habillement; Chapitre 2. Effets d'équipement; Chapitre 3. Effets de harnachement; Chapitre 4. Armes et pièces d'armes.

Art. 138. Le registre des comptes ouverts est destiné à recevoir l'inscription des effets et des armes délivrés aux compagnies par le magasin central, ou aux brigades par les magasins de compagnie.

Art. 139. Chaque sous-officier, brigadier, et gendarme reçoit, à son arrivée, un livret individuel signé, coté et paraphé, par le Président du Conseil d'Administration, ou par le Commandant de compagnie dans la gendarmerie départementale, sur lequel les renseignements qui constituent son état civil, son signalement, et ses services sont inscrits d'après le Registre-Matricule.

On y inscrit en outre la nomenclature des effets délivrés, avec leur prix d'achat et la date de livraison: le numéro matricule, le signalement, le prix, et la date de réception du cheval; le numéro des armes, &c.; les paiements faits au titre du service de la solde; les paiements faits à titre d'indemnité.

Ces livrets sont arrêtés et signés par les Commandants de compagnie à la fin de chaque trimestre; après avoir reconnu l'exactitude de leurs comptes, les hommes signent également leur livret.

Art. 140. Dans chaque compagnie, pour la gendarmerie départementale, les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes sont, chaque mois, portés sur des feuilles d'émargement établies par brigade et donnant le total à recevoir pour le mois écoulé, tant au titre de la solde qu'au titre des accessoires et des indemnités.

Ces feuilles, certifiées par le commandant de la compagnie, sont envoyées aux Commandants de section, avec un mandat de solde payable à vue à la Caisse cantonale.

Aussitôt que le Commandant de section a reçu de l'agent du Trésor le montant du mandat, il paie lui-même tous les militaires du corps présents à la résidence, et expédie, par la voie la plus prompte et la plus sûre, les feuilles d'émargement et la somme afférente à chaque brigade.

Les militaires apposent leur signature sur la feuille d'émargement au moment où le paiement leur est fait; ces feuilles sont renvoyées ensuite au Commandant de section, qui les adresse lui-même, avec un bordereau mensuel, au Commandant de la compagnie.

Art. 141. Chaque paiement individuel de solde est immédiatement constaté par l'inscription au livret faite par l'officier, sous-officier, ou brigadier qui a fait le paiement.

Les erreurs commises dans le décompte des journées de solde ou des indemnités ne sont jamais un prétexte pour ajourner l'inscription.

Art. 142. Chaque Commandant de compagnie de la gendarmerie départementale conserve par devers lui les feuilles d'émargement et autres pièces comptables pour les mettre à l'appui de la comptabilité de la compagnie, dont il fait périodiquement l'envoi au Conseil d'Administration, selon les ordres donnés par celui-ci.

Art. 143. Dans la gendarmerie mobile, la solde de la troupe est payée par mois, à

terme échu; elle est remise par le Trésorier au Commandant de la compagnie et à celui du demi-escadron sur production d'un état certifié et acquitté.

Le montant en est réparti entre les ayants-droit par les soins de l'un et l'autre de ces officiers.

Art. 144. Il est établi trimestriellement, par les soins de l'officier trésorier, aussitôt qu'il a reçu la comptabilité des compagnies, un état comparatif des allocations dues aux officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes; après vérification, il est payé à ceux qui ont perçu en moins le complément qui leur est dû et imposé une retenue à ceux qui ont trop perçu.

Il est procédé de la même façon pour la gendarmerie mobile.

Art. 145. Les efforts de toute nature sont, en exécution des marchés passés, livrés par les fournisseurs au Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Une fois reconnus de bonne qualité et conformes au modèle, ils sont déposés au magasin et leur réception est constatée au registre des entrées et sorties du magasin tenu par les soins de l'officier d'habillement.

Art. 146. Les envois sont faits aux compagnies sur la remise d'un état de demande adressé par le Commandant de compagnie et approuvé par le Conseil d'Administration.

La réception est constatée par le renvoi de la lettre de voiture sur laquelle le Commandant de compagnie destinataire appose son récépissé.

Art. 147. Les livraisons d'effets aux sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ont lieu, dans chaque compagnie, par les soins du Commandant de compagnie sur la présentation de bons nominatifs signés par les Commandants de section et émargés par les hommes.

Ces bons, récapitulés par trimestre, sont mis à l'appui d'un état général nominatif établi par compagnie, certifié par le Commandant de compagnie, et présentant, dans l'ordre des Chapitres du registre des recettes et consommations de la compagnie, le détail des effets livrés.

Pour les hommes de la gendarmerie mobile, les livraisons sont faites directement au magasin du corps par les soins de l'officier d'habillement, sur la remise de bons établis par le Commandant de compagnie, ou par le Commandant du demi-escadron et en leur présence.

Art. 148. L'Administration et la comptabilité du corps de la gendarmerie sont soumises au contrôle de l'officier supérieur directeur, de l'administration et du contrôle à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Les registres et pièces à l'appui de la comptabilité en deniers et en matières sont remis à cet officier supérieur ou à ses délégués toutes les fois qu'ils le requièrent pour leurs vérifications.

Les fonds existant en caisse et les effets en magasins lui sont présentés.

Art. 149. L'arrêté des comptes du corps est fait annuellement par les soins de cet officier supérieur.

Art. 150. Les registres, états, livrets, et pièces de toute nature relatifs au service, à l'administration, et à la comptabilité du corps de la gendarmerie sont établis sur des modèles et formules arrêtés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Ces modèles imprimés sont mis, par le Conseil d'Administration, à la disposition de tous les ayants-droit.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Chapitre XIV: "Organisation de la Propriété Foncière."

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il a préparé, avec le concours de M. de Braunschweig, une rédaction du Chapitre sur la propriété foncière, plus détaillée que celle qui avait été primitivement soumise à la Commission. La plupart des additions portent sur la question du rachat des Vakoufs:

"Cette nouvelle rédaction," ajoute le Commissaire de France, "a été communiquée par moi à MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, qui, sans se prononcer définitivement sur une matière au sujet de laquelle ils n'ont pas d'instruction précises de la Sublime Porte, m'ont cependant suggéré quelques modifications qui rendraient, à leur avis, le projet tel qu'il a été élaboré par M. de Braunschweig et par moi, plus conforme aux idées du Gouvernement Ottoman. Les changements recommandés par nos collègues de Turquie n'altèrent d'ailleurs en rien le sens libéral dans lequel nous avions conçu la réforme à introduire dans l'organisation de la propriété foncière. A mon grand regret, son Excellence Assim Pacha et Abro Effendi ne se sont pas prononcés sur la question de savoir comment et sous quelle forme les établissements pieux recevront

l'indemnité à laquelle ils ont droit. Nous avons pensé, M. de Braunschweig et moi, que la meilleure manière d'indemniser ces établissements consisterait à leur délivrer des lettres de gage au porteur, solidement garanties, portant un intérêt annuel, amortissables dans une période de trente ans et négociables de l'Empire. MM. les Commissaires Ottomans n'ont pas paru goûter cette combinaison sans pourtant la rejeter *à priori*. Ils voudraient que le problème ne fût pas tranché par le Statut.

"Voici, Messieurs, le texte arrêté entre M. de Braunschweig et moi. Je n'hésite pas à confesser qu'ils nous paraît à tous deux susceptible de recevoir encore de notables améliorations."

Chapitre XIV.—Organisation de la Propriété Foncière.

Article 1er. Au plus tard à la deuxième session ordinaire de l'Assemblée Provinciale, le Gouverneur-Général présentera à celle-ci trois Projets de Loi traitant de la propriété foncière.

Art. 2. Le premier de ces projets devra:

1. Porter création d'un cadastre des propriétés foncières situés dans la province;
2. Décréter l'abolition des dîmes;
3. Remplacer celle-ci par un impôt foncier.

Art 3. Le second Projet de Loi devra convertir en propriété foncière libre les terres et autres immeubles régis par le vakouf, ou sujets à une servitude féodale.

Cette loi s'inspirera des principes suivants:

(*a.*) Les immeubles de rapport qui sont gérés directement ou donnes à bail pour un laps de temps déterminé par des communautés religieuses Musulmanes ou par des établissements religieux, scolaires, ou de charité Musulmans, seront désormais, de plein droit, aliénables, cessibles et saisissables comme les propriétés libres des particuliers.

Des règlements spéciaux, élaborés par les communautés et approuvés par une loi provinciale, fixeront les conditions et formalités auxquelles seront subordonnées les aliénations volontaires des dits immeubles.

(*b.*) Les immeubles de rapports connus sous le nom de vacoufs coutumiers deviendront sur le champ la propriété libre de leurs détenteurs légitimes actuels, à la charge pour ceux-ci de dédommager les communautés religieuses Mussulmanes, ou les établissements religieux, scolaires, ou de bienfaisance Musulmans auxquels ils étaient dédiés.

(*c.*) Ce dédommagement s'effectuera par l'intermédiaire du Gouvernement Provincial, après les formes et suivant les conditions ci-après exposées:

(*d.*) Le montant des indemnités à payer aux communautés religieuses Musulmanes, ou aux établissements religieux, scolaires, ou de charité Musulmans devra être fixé, pour chaque immeuble, en capitalisant la rente foncière annuelle payée par le dit immeuble, quelle que soit la nature ou la dénomination de cette rente, et en ajoutant à la somme ainsi capitalisée la valeur estimative du droit de réversibilité du fonds calculé, en tenant compte du droit de mutation prévu en faveur de la communauté religieuse ou de l'établissement religieux, scolaire, ou de charité Musulman, en cas de transmission par héritage, vente, &c. de l'immeuble vakouf.

(*e.*) L'indemnité dont il est question au paragraphe précédent devra être arrondie de telle manière que son total, exprimé en piastres or, puisse être divisé par le nombre 100.

(*f.*) La communauté religieuse Musulmane ou l'établissement religieux, scolaire, ou de charité Musulman à indemniser recevra, jusqu'à concurrence de l'indemnité qui lui sera allouée (par coupures de 100, de 500, de 1,000, ou de 10,000 piastres or) lettres de gage au porteur, lesquelles porteront intérêt à —— pour cent, et seront négociables à toutes les bourses de l'Empire.

Pour les vacoufs ayant un administrateur spécial, ces lettres de gage seront remises aux mains du dit administrateur. Pour les vakoufs administrés par le Ministère des Fondations Pieuses à Constantinople, ces lettres de gage seront remises au dit Ministère.

Le capital et les intérêts de chacune de ces lettres de gage seront garantis au porteur par le Trésor de la province, par la totalité des immeubles libérés et en outre, plus spécialement, par l'immeuble pour la libération duquel la lettre en question aura été mise.

Chaque lettre portera mention de ce dernier immeuble.

(*g.*) Du jour où les communautés religieuses Musulmanes, et les établissements religieux, scolaires, ou de charité Musulmans représentés pour les administrateurs de leurs vakoufs, ou par le Ministère des Fondations Pieuses à Constantinople, recevront les lettres de gage destinés à les indemniser, les immeubles correspondants deviendront propriété libre de leurs détenteurs légitimes.

(*h.*) Tout détenteur d'un immeuble libéré sera tenu de payer annuellement au Trésor de la province une redevance dont le montant comprendra:—

1. La redevance anciennement payée à la communauté religieuse Musulmane, ou à l'établissement religieux, scolaire, ou de charité Musulman dont relevait le dit immeuble;

2. Une somme consacrée à l'amortissement. Cette somme devra être calculée de telle façon que la totalité des lettres de gage émises puisse être amortie dans un laps de temps de trente ans au plus.

(*i.*) Tout détenteur d'un immeuble libéré peut se décharger des obligations prévues à l'Article précédent en versant au Trésor de la province, en bloc, une somme représentant la redevance capitalisée ainsi que la valeur estimative dont il est question au § (*e*). En ce cas, le Trésor Provincial amortit immédiatement les lettres de gage correspondantes.

(*j.*) Dans chaque département il sera formé une Commission, présidée par un employé spécial, laquelle sera chargée:—

1. De faire le relevé des immeubles vakoufs ainsi que du montant des redevances dont chacun est actuellement grevé;

2. De fixer le montant des indemnités à allouer, sous forme de lettres de gage, aux communautés religieuses Musulmanes, ainsi qu'aux établissements religieux, scolaires, et de charité Musulmans;

3. De fixer le montant de la redevance à payer par les détenteurs des immeubles libérés en conformité au § (*h*).

(*k.*) La Commission susdite ne pourra prendre aucune décision sans avoir entendu les parties intéressées.

(*l.*) Il pourra être interjeté appel de ses décisions auprès du Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

(*m.*) Le recouvrement des redevances annuelles à payer par les propriétaires des immeubles libérés, le paiement des intérêts des lettres de gage mises en circulation, l'amortissement des dites lettres, et en général toutes les mesures prévues par la loi sur la libération du sol, seront du ressort de la Direction Générale des Finances.

(*n.*) La loi décidera si partie de ces opérations devra être confiée à une banque déjà existante ou à une banque qui serait à créer spécialement à cet effet.

Art. 4. La loi sur la libération du sol contiendra des dispositions analogues pour la libération des Vacoufs appartenant aux communautés et fondations pieuses non-Musulmanes, ainsi que pour la libération des terres sujettes à des redevances féodales.

Art. 5. Le troisième Projet de Loi prévu à l'Article 1er ci-dessus, réglera le régime des hypothèques et réformera le système actuellement existant des registres de la propriété foncière.

Les nouveaux registres devront contenir:—

1. Le nom du propriétaire de chaque immeuble ainsi qu'une transcription de ses lettres de propriété;

2. Les servitudes foncières et autres charges permanentes grevant chaque immeuble à raison des lettres de gage émises pour sa libération d'un droit de vakouf ou d'une charge féodale;

3. Les autres priviléges ainsi que les hypothèques grevant chaque immeuble.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff croit de son devoir de rendre hommage au Baron de Ring et à M. de Braunschweig pour le travail consciencieux et détaillé soumis par eux à la Commission. Tout en considérant que l'idée, suggérée par MM. les Commissaires Ottomans de ne point astreindre l'Assemblée Provinciale à choisir nécessairement le système des lettres de gage, serait de nature à prévenir certains inconvénients, il se déclare prêt à accepter le projet présenté par MM. de Ring et de Braunschweig, si tous les autres Commissaires sont unanimes à le voter.

Après un échange d'idées entre tous les membres de la Commission, le projet présenté par le Baron de Ring et M. de Braunschweig est accepté par six Commissaires.

Les Délégués Ottomans, n'ayant pas d'instructions précises au sujet de l'organisation de la propriété foncière, réservent l'opinion de leur Gouvernement sur cette question.

En conséquence le Chapitre XIV reste ouvert.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, *M. de Kallay* prend la parole en ces termes :—

"Notre collègue de France avait déjà, dans une des dernières séances, attiré l'attention de la Commission sur la nécessité de nous entendre sur ceux des Articles des différents Chapitres du Statut Organique qui sont restés ouverts. Je me suis appliqué à amener cette entente, et je suis heureux de constater qu'à l'exception de quelques Articles, fort peu nombreux d'ailleurs, les points qui avaient été laissés en suspens peuvent aujourd'hui recevoir une solution définitive.

"Les réserves consignées dans nos Protocoles venaient principalement du fait de nos collègues de Turquie et de Russie ; les autres membres de la Commission, de leur côté, en avaient fait quelques-unes. La transaction que nous paraissons tous être disposés à accepter est basée sur des concessions réciproques ; aussi les différentes propositions que je vous soumettrai tout à l'heure sont-elles étroitement liées entre elles. Je dois à cette occasion reconnaître l'esprit conciliant dont ont fait preuve tous mes collègues et principalement ceux qui étaient les plus intéressés dans la question, c'est-à-dire les Commissaires de Turquie et de Russie, pour me faciliter la tâche que j'avais entreprise.

"Si la Commission adopte les différentes propositions que je vais lui faire comme résultat d'une entente entre tous les Commissaires, les réserves au sujet des Articles restés ouverts disparaîtront entièrement."

La Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie fait les propositions suivantes :—

1. L'Article 6 du Chapitre I doit être rédigé ainsi :—

"Art. 6. Le service militaire dans la milice provinciale est obligatoire pour tous les indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale dans les conditions déterminées au Chapitre XII du présent Statut.

"Les indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale ne peuvent être astreints à s'enrôler dans l'armée Ottomane, mais il leur est loisible de suivre les cours des écoles militaires Ottomanes ou de s'engager dans un corps de troupes Ottoman, pourvu qu'ils ne soient pas encore inscrits sur les contrôles de la milice provinciale ou qu'ils aient cessé de l'être.

"Le temps passé dans les corps de troupes Ottomans sera compté pour un service de même durée dans la milice.

"L'emploi de la milice en temps de guerre est déterminé par le Chapitre XII, Article 2.

"La taxe d'exonération ('Bedel-i-Askérié,') reste abolie dans la province."

La Commission adopte.

2. L'alinéa quatrième de l'Article 7 du Chapitre I doit définitivement, sans réserve aucune, être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Le Gouverneur-Général nomme, avec l'approbation du Sultan, les Directeurs-Généraux des Services Administratifs, les Magistrats de la Cour Supérieure de Justice, ainsi que les Préfets des départements. Cette approbation est donnée par une Ordonnance Impériale. Elle est censée donnée, si, dans le délai d'un mois après que la nomination faite par le Gouverneur-Général aura été soumis à l'approbation du Sultan, Sa Majesté n'a pas fait connaître sa décision. Pendant la vacance d'une poste de Directeur, de Magistrat de la Cour Supérieure de Justice ou de Préfet, le Gouverneur-Général pourvoit provisoirement au poste vacant."

La Commission adopte.

3. L'alinéa cinquième de l'Article 10 du Chapitre I doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"Si la sanction n'est pas refusée au bout de deux mois, la loi est censée être sanctionée."

La Commission adopte.

4. L'alinéa onzième de l'Article 13 du Chapitre I doit définitivement être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Les lois réglant la gestion du domaine provincial."

La Commission adopte.

5. Un nouvel Article suivant doit être introduit dans le Chapitre I :—

"Il sera fait une juste distribution des emplois publics en tenant compte pour les choix à faire de la majorité des habitants des différentes circonscriptions."

Cet Article prendra le No. 20.

La Commission adopte.

6. L'Article 3 du Chapitre III doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 3. En cas de haute trahison, de violation du Statut Organique de la province, de malversations commises au préjudice de l'Empire, de la province ou des particuliers, le Gouverneur-Général peut être mis en accusation devant une haute Cour, qui sera composée d'un Président et de cinq membres nommés par la Sublime Porte, et de cinq membres élus par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Le droit d'accusation est exercé par la Sublime Porte, soit d'office, soit sur la plainte de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Une plainte de l'Assemblée Provinciale contre le Gouverneur-Général doit être signée par les quatre septièmes au moins de ses membres : elle est renvoyée directement à la Sublime Porte qui doit en saisir la haute Cour.

"La haute Cour fixe elle-même sa procédure. Si elle juge, par sept voix contre quatre, que l'accusation dirigée contre le Gouverneur-Général est fondée, elle prononce la déchéance de ce dernier, sans préjudice des peines édictées par la Loi Pénale."

La Commission adopte.

7. Le 1 et le 4 de l'Article 6 du Chapitre IV doivent être définitivement adoptés dans la forme suivante :—

"(1.) La composition du personnel de la Cour Supérieure de Justice et des Tribunaux ;

"(4.) L'instruction des recours en grâce et de la préparation des projets d'armistice."

La Commission adopte.

8. Le 6 du même Article doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"6. La surveillance de la tenue des registres de l'état civil.

"Dans ce but les personnes chargées de la tenue des registres de l'état civil en communiquent copie tous les trois mois au Tribunal du département."

La Commission adopte.

9. Le 4 de Article 7 du Chapitre IV doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :

"4. La gestion des immeubles composant le domaine provincial autres que les bois et forêts et les mines."

La Commission adopte.

10. Les trois alinéas suivants doivent être introduits dans l'Article 11 du Chapitre IV :—

"Le Président est un des Conseillers de la Cour d'Appel désigné au commencement de chaque année pour la durée de celle-ci, par la voie du sort.

"Un des Conseillers est désigné par le Gouverneur-Général, l'autre par le Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Ces Conseillers ne peuvent être pris parmi les membres du Conseil Privé, ni parmi ceux du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Les deux auditeurs sont désignés comme les deux Conseillers.

"Ces trois alinéas prendront les Nos. 2, 3, et 4."

La Commission adopte.

11. L'Article 1er du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Article 1er. L'Assemblée Provinciale se compose :

"1. De membres de droit ;

"2. De membres élus par la population ;

"3. De membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général."

La Commission adopte.

12. L'alinéa premier de l'Article 7 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Les membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général sont au nombre de 10."

La Commission adopte.

13. L'alinéa deuxième du même Article doit être rédigé ainsi :

"Ces membres doivent être choisis autant que possible en nombre égal dans les trois catégories suivantes, savoir : parmi les 100 propriétaires, négociants et indus-

triels, les plus imposés de la province; parmi les fonctionnaires de l'Administration Civile et les Magistrats; parmi les citoyens exerçant une profession libérale et munis soit d'un diplôme de docteur ou de licencié délivré par une Université, soit d'un diplôme équivalent délivré par une école de hautes études placée sur le même rang que les Universités."

La Commission adopte.

14. L'Article 16 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 16. Les élections de renouvellement se font simultanément, en un même jour, dans toutes les circonscriptions où elles doivent avoir lieu.

"Il devra y être procédé deux mois au moins avant l'époque de la session ordinaire annuelle.

"Dans le cas d'une dissolution générale, les électeurs doivent être convoqués dans les trois mois pour procéder à l'élection de la nouvelle Assemblée Provinciale."

La Commission adopte.

15. L'alinea cinquième de l'Article 20 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Si le Gouverneur-Général n'exerce pas ses droits, c'est le doyen d'âge qui prononce l'ouverture et le Président qui prononce la clôture de la session."

La Commission adopte.

16. L'alinéa premier de l'Article 23 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"L'Assemblée a un Président, choisi au commencement de chaque session et pour sa durée par le Gouverneur-Général entre deux candidats élus par l'Assemblée."

La Commission adopte.

17. L'alinea deuxième du même Article doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante:—

"Elle a deux Vice-Présidents et deux Secrétaires élus par elle, pour chaque session aussitôt après l'installation du Président."

La Commission adopte.

18. L'alinéa premier de l'Article 28 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Art. 28. Les membres de l'Assemblée, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, ont les mêmes droits, les mêmes prérogatives, et les mêmes devoirs. Ils sont libres dans l'émission de leur vote ou dans leur abstention, ainsi que dans l'expression de leurs opinions. Ils ne peuvent être poursuivis à raison de leurs discours, comme aussi à raison de leurs propositions écrites, ou des rapports par eux rédigés, que sur la demande de six membres relevant dans le discours ou dans l'écrit un crime caractérisé par la loi, et si la poursuite est autorisée par l'Assemblée."

La Commission adopte.

19. L'alinéa troisième de l'Article 30 du Chapitre V doit être supprimé.

La Commission adopte.

20. L'Article 33 devra avoir un troisième alinéa rédigé comme suit :—

"Dans tous les cas, le Gouverneur-Général doit présenter le Projet de Loi demandé et il ne peut pas le retirer avant que l'Assemblée ne se soit prononcée."

La Commission adopte.

21. L'alinéa premier de l'Article 37 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Le Comité Permanent se compose de dix membres titulaires et de trois membres suppléants."

La Commission adopte.

22. L'alinéa troisième du même Article doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Pour la nomination des membres titulaires du Comité Permanent nul bulletin ne peut contenir plus de six noms; pour celle des membres suppléants nul bulletin ne peut en contenir plus de deux."

La Commission adopte.

23. L'Article 38 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Art. 38. Le Comité Permanent a un Président, un Vice-Président, et un Secrétaire nommés par lui. Pour qu'il délibère valablement, la présence de sept membres au moins est nécessaire."

La Commission adopte.

24. L'alinéa neuvième de l'Article 40 du Chapitre V doit être rédigé comme suit :—

"Il ouvre au Gouverneur-Général, en cas d'urgence, des crédits supplémentaires, lorsqu'il est justifié que les fonds affectés à un service porté au budget sont insuffisants."

La Commission adopte.

25. L'Article 41 du Chapitre V doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :—

"Art. 41. Durant les sessions de l'Assemblée Provinciale, le droit du Comité Permanent d'établir conjointement avec le Gouverneur-Général, ainsi qu'il est dit à l'Article 10 du Chapitre I, des règlements d'administration publique, pour satisfaire à des besoins urgents, est suspendu."

La Commission adopte.

26. Les deux premiers alinéas des dispositions transitoires du Chapitre V doivent être adoptés dans la forme suivante :—

"(B.)—*Dispositions Transitoires.*

"Pour les premières élections provinciales qui suivent la promulgation du présent Statut et qui devront avoir lieu dans les trois mois d'installation du Gouverneur-Général, les circonscriptions électorales au nombre fixé par le Statut seront provisoirement établies par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue sur l'avis d'une Commission spéciale.

"Seront membres de cette Commission : les Administrateurs-Généraux; le Mufti; les Chefs spirituels des cinq communautés religieuses Chrétiennes; le principal Rabbin résidant au chef-lieu de la province, et les représentants des arrondissements existant actuellement, désignés, un pour chaque arrondissement, par Conseils Administratifs.

"Pour ces premières élections, des listes provisoires seront dressées dans chaque collége électoral par l'autorité judiciaire avec le concours des Maires et Chefs des communautés religieuses."

La Commission adopte.

27. Les Articles 1 et 2 du chapitre VI devront être remplacés par les trois articles suivants :

"Art. 1. La Roumélie Orientale est divisée en six départements et vingt-huit cantons.

"Art. 2. Les chefs-lieux des six départements sont: Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, Haskeui, Eski-Zaghra, Slivno, et Bourgas.

"Art. 3. Les limites des départements et des cantons seront fixées par une loi provinciale.

"Aucun des départements ne pourra avoir plus de six et moins de quatre cantons.

"En fixant les limites des départements et des cantons, la loi provinciale tiendra compte des besoins administratifs, des intérêts locaux, et des facilités de communication.

"Le Projet de Loi concernant les circonscriptions administratives sus-mentionnées, sera présenté par le Gouverneur-Général à la première Session de l'Assemblée Provinciale; jusque-là ces circonscriptions seront provisoirement fixées par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général."

28. L'alinéa huitième de l'Article 5 du chapitre VI doit être supprimé.

La Commission adopte.

29. L'alinéa deuxième de l'Article 16 du chapitre VI doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :

"Ce Conseil se compose :

"1. De membres de droit, savoir : des Chefs des trois communautés religieuses les plus nombreuses dans le département."

Le Baron de Ring fait observer à M. de Kallay que dans le département de Philippopoli, il existe une communauté Catholique qui compte jusqu'à 10,000 fidèles et qui devrait en toute justice avoir un représentant dans le Conseil Général de ce département.

En conséquence, le Commissaire de France propose d'adopter l'alinéa deuxième de l'Article 16 du Chapitre VI dans la forme suivante :

"Ce Conseil se compose : (1) de membres de droit, savoir : des Chefs des trois communautés religieuses les plus nombreuses dans le département. Dans le département de Philippopoli seront membres du Conseil Général les Chefs des quatre communautés religieuses les plus nombreuses."

M. de Kallay dit que, sans avoir aucune objection de principe contre la proposition du Baron de Ring, il ne pourrait cependant l'accepter que si tous les Commissaires étaient unanimes à en reconnaître l'utilité. Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie se considère, en effet, comme obligé à s'en tenir strictement à la lettre de ses propositions qui sont toutes intimement liées entre elles, puisqu'elles ont été le produit de concessions réciproques entre plusieurs membres de la Commission.

Le Prince Tzeretelew, sans vouloir entrer dans un débat sur le fond même de la question soulevée par le Baron de Ring, dit qu'il se range à l'avis de M. de Kallay, qu'il serait difficile d'amender la proposition de ce dernier sans risquer de détruire une entente due à des concessions de part et d'autre. Néanmoins, si la Commission est unanime à accepter l'amendement du Baron de Ring, les Délégués de Russie sont prêts à lui donner leur adhésion.

L'amendement du Baron de Ring, mis aux voix, est voté à l'unanimité.

M. de Kallay continue ses propositions :

30. L'Article 17 du Chapitre VI doit être adopté dans la rédaction suivante :

"Art. 17. Pour être électeur départemental ou éligible au Conseil Général, il faut remplir les conditions requises pour prendre part aux élections provinciales ou pour être nommé membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Le Gouverneur-Général est astreint à prendre les Conseillers-Généraux qu'il a pouvoir de désigner dans les mêmes catégories de personnes que les membres qu'il a le droit d'envoyer à l'Assemblée Provinciale. Il doit les choisir parmi les personnes domiciliées dans le département."

La Commission adopte.

31. L'alinéa premier de l'Article 47 du Chapitre VI doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 47. (alinéa 1.) Dans chaque canton, à l'exception de ceux dont le chef-lieu est en même temps le siége d'une administration départementale, un Bailli nommé par le Gouverneur-Général sur les listes dressées par les Conseils Généraux d'accord avec le Préfet, et placé sous l'autorité de celui-ci, assure l'exécution des instructions relatives à l'administration communale, ainsi que toutes les mesures d'intérêt général prescrites, soit par l'autorité supérieure soit par le Préfet dans la limite de sa compétence."

La Commission adopte.

32. L'Article 52 du Chapitre VI doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 52. Dans les villes chefs-lieux de département ou de canton le Maire et les adjoints sont élus par les membres du Conseil Municipal et confirmés par le Gouverneur-Général.

"Dans les autres villes ils sont élus par le Conseil Municipal et confirmés par le Préfet.

"Leurs fonctions sont gratuites. Toutefois il est loisible aux Conseils Municipaux de leur allouer, avec l'assentiment du Préfet, des frais de service et de représentation."

La Commission adopte.

33. L'Article 6 du Chapitre XV doit être adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 6. Le Gouverneur-Général reçoit par an un traitement fixe de 300,000 piastres or et 100,000 piastres or à titre de frais de représentation. Il aura en outre droit à un logement meublé aux frais de la province. Ce traitement ne pourra être modifié.

"Le traitement de tous les autres fonctionnaires et employés sera fixé par une loi provinciale à la première Session de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Jusque-là les traitements seront provisoirement fixé par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général par analogie à ceux des fonctionnaires remplissant des emplois similaires dans le reste de l'Empire."

La Commission adopte.

M. de Kallay constate avec la plus grande satisfaction que la Commission a définitivement résolu la majeure partie des questions restées en suspens : "Il ne nous reste plus," dit le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, "qu'à arriver à une entente avec MM. les Commissaires Ottomans au sujet de plusieurs points réservés par eux seuls, savoir : l'Article 20 du Chapitre I, concernant l'emploi des différentes langues du pays ; les Articles du Chapitre VII, concernant la quote-part payée par la province à l'Empire ; l'Article 12 du Chapitre XI relatif à l'investiture des Evêques, et enfin le Chapitre XIV traitant de l'organisation de la propriété foncière. J'espère d'ailleurs que ces dernières réserves pourront bientôt disparaître."

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit être l'interprète des sentiments de tous ses collègues en remerciant M. de Kallay pour le travail difficile et délicat qu'il a si heureusement mené à bonne fin. Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie regrette vivement que le Statut Organique ne puisse pas être considéré comme complétement achevé, par suite des réserves maintenues encore par les Délégués Ottomans ; mais il espère, comme M. de Kallay, que ces réserves ne tarderont pas à être retirées.

Abro Effendi remercie M. de Kallay pour le tact et l'habileté avec lesquels il a conduit cette négociation.

Tous les autres Commissaires se joignent à Abro Effendi pour exprimer leur reconnaissance à M. de Kallay.

M. de Kallay dit qu'en vue de hâter la solution des questions non encore résolues, il croit urgent pour la Commission de se transporter à Constantinople ; "MM. les Commissaires Ottomans," dit-il, "pourraient de cette façon recevoir plus facilement ces instructions, dont le manque est l'une des raisons qui les empêchent de mettre la dernière main au Statut Organique. Aussi, estimant qu'il est nécessaire de rendre le Statut le plus tôt possible apte à être promulgué, je ne crains pas d'affirmer que, dans l'intérêt bien entendu de ses travaux, la Commission devrait se rendre à Constantinople pour y procéder à la seconde lecture du Statut Organique."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff s'associe aux idées exprimées par M. de Kallay ; il croit que la Commission devrait se transporter à Constantinople pour la seconde lecture du Statut, sauf à retourner à Philippopoli, si cela était nécessaire.

Le Chevalier Vernoni et *Le Baron de Ring* se prononcent dans le même sens.

Les Commissaires de Turquie déclarent qu'ils se rallieront dans cette question à l'opinion de la majorité de leurs collègues.

Les Commissaires de Russie font la même déclaration, en se plaçant au point de vue de leurs collègues Ottomans.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe la première séance au 27 Mars, 1879.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Protocole No. 59.—Séance du $\frac{15}{27}$ Mars, 1879 (5 Rébi-ul-Akhir, 1296), à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.

Présidence de M. le Baron de Ring.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Prince Tzeretelew prend la parole en ces termes :

"Nous avons terminé dans notre dernière séance le Statut Organique, sauf quelques points restés ouverts et que nous espérons d'ailleurs voir bientôt résolus. Il est de notre devoir de songer aujourd'hui à certaines questions dont dépend en grande partie le succès de notre œuvre. Ces questions se résument toutes en une seule—la mise à exécution du Statut. Je ne prétends pas indiquer dès maintenant les mesures propres à atteindre ce but, et je n'ai en vue que de signaler celui-ci à l'attention sérieuse de la Commission.

"Vous n'ignorez pas, Messieurs, que toutes les fois que des réformes ont été promises à ce pays, elles sont restées stériles faute de garanties. Ce fait a justement préoccupé les Représentants des Grandes Puissances réunis à la Conférence de Constantinople ; les propositions de la huitième séance plénière, qui nous sont données comme point de départ pour l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, demandent la création d'une Commission Européenne de contrôle 'pour veiller à l'exécution des règlements et aider les autorités locales dans différentes mesures touchant l'ordre et la sécurité publique.' Je m'abstiendrai de démontrer à quel point une pareille Commission est aujourd'hui indispensable, si l'on désire mettre en vigueur les décisions des Puissances, et me bornerai à citer les paroles d'un des membres les plus autorisés de la Conférence de Constantinople. A la sixième séance plénière, Lord Salisbury lisait l'extrait suivant de la note du 30 Décembre :

"'Si l'on songe au peu de créance que rencontrent auprès des populations Chrétiennes les promesses de la Sublime Porte, on ne peut se dissimuler que les réformes promulguées ne pourront inspirer la confiance nécessaire qu'à condition que l'on crée en même temps une institution propre à offrir une certaine garantie que ces réformes seront sérieusement appliquées. En se bornant à remettre leur exécution à la discrétion des Gouvernements de la province, on ne parviendrait pas à surmonter la méfiance dont je parle. . . .'

"Il ajoutait au cours de la même séance : 'Les Puissances étaient convaincues que le seul moyen sûr de former une Commission indépendante serait de confier la nomination des Commissaires aux alliés du Sultan.' En prononçant ces paroles, le

Plénipotentiaire de la Grande Bretagne ne faisait que développer une idée contenue dans la note du Comte Andrassy.

"A la même séance, le Comte Corti s'exprimait en ces termes :

"'La Commisssion Internationale prévue dans le programme des Puissances n'est, de même que le concours de l'Europe, prêté une fois de plus à la Turquie sous une autre forme et sur le terrain administratif.

"'Quelques prudentes que soient les réformes qui doivent être introduites dans les vilayets dont nous nous occupons, il faut prévoir que des difficultés se produiront dans leur application première. Il sera sans doute nécessaire de redresser les inexpériences des autorités locales. Les Plénipotentiaires ont pensé qu'à ce point de vue ce serait venir en aide au Gouvernement Ottoman que de lui proposer de confier à une Commission de Délégués des Puissances le soin de remplir dans les provinces le rôle de Conseiller et de veiller, au début, au fonctionnement régulier du nouveau régime. L'autorité souveraine ne serait ainsi que fortifiée par le soutien que les Grandes Puissances prêteraient loyalement au Gouvernement Ottoman dans l'œuvre de pacification de ces provinces.'

"Les idées dont s'inspiraient les Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances, lorsqu'ils demandaient le concours actif de l'Europe pour améliorer l'administration dans ce pays, se trouvent aujourd'hui amplement confirmées par le fait qu'une Commission Européenne est chargée d'élaborer une organisation nouvelle pour la Roumélie Orientale. Il serait facile de déduire logiquement de ce fait la nécessité de ne point abandonner l'œuvre commencée et d'établir, tant dans l'intérêt des habitants que dans celui de la Sublime Porte elle-même, une Commission appelée à prêter son concours aux autorités locales pour la mise en œuvre du nouveau régime.

"Je répète encore une fois qu'il n'entre point dans ma pensée de préjuger un point d'une portée aussi grande, et je me borne à signaler à l'attention de mes collègues les questions qui surgissent d'elles-mêmes lorsqu'on pense à l'avenir de notre œuvre.

"Je ne craindrai pas d'affirmer que la Commission a le devoir de songer à la manière dont cette œuvre sera appliquée. A ce point de vue nous devrions élaborer un règlement qui déterminerait d'une manière détaillée de quelle façon l'ordre de choses actuel pourra pratiquement être remplacé par la nouvelle organisation. Un Règlement de ce genre, sanctionné par les Puissances, faciliterait certainement l'entrée en vigueur du régime dont nous avons jeté les fondements."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff rappelle à la Commission que dans la vingt-sixième séance il a déclaré "qu'ayant appelé l'attention de son Gouvernement sur la nécessité de prendre des mesures efficaces pour le maintien de l'ordre au moment de l'évacuation de la Roumélie Orientale, il a été autorisé à discuter cette question au sein de la Commission Européenne, si les Délégués des autres Puissances reçoivent de leurs Gouvernements une autorisation analogue." "J'ai toujours été d'avis," ajoute le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, "que nous devions veiller aux mesures propres à assurer l'ordre au moment de l'évacuation et jusqu'à ce que le nouvel état de choses fut introduit. Pour ce qui est spécialement de l'élaboration du Règlement dont a parlé le Prince Tzeterelew, je n'y suis pas opposé en principe, mais je me demande si la Commission peut s'occuper de cette question sans y être autorisée par les Puissances signataires du Traité. Je me déclare prêt, quant à moi, à porter immédiatement les idées exprimées par M. le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie à la connaissance de mon Gouvernement, et je fais des vœux pour que nous recevions tous promptement les pouvoirs nécessaires pour traiter une question qui se rattache à la déclaration faite par moi à la vingt-sixième séance."

Abro Effendi : "Nous avions pour mandat d'élaborer un Statut Organique. Ce Statut est achevé ; nous serons donc bientôt à la fin de notre mission. L'application de ce Statut est complétement en dehors de notre compétence. Le Traité de Berlin nous a prescrit de tenir compte seulement des propositions faites à la huitième séance plénière de la Conférence de Constantinople. Or, dans la huitième séance la question de la Commission de Surveillance n'a même pas été soulevée. Nous sommes donc incompétents pour entrer dans une pareille discussion. D'ailleurs, d'après nous, les garanties demandées par le Prince Tzeretelew existent : elles reposent dans le fait que le futur Gouverneur-Général sera nommé par la Porte avec l'assentiment des Puissances. Or, les Puissances ne donneront leur assentiment qu'à la nomination d'un Gouverneur capable d'appliquer le Statut rédigé par nous."

Le Colonel Schepelew fait observer à Abro Effendi que les Puissances qui ont pris part à l'élaboration du nouveau régime de la Roumélie Orientale sont intéressées à son application au même titre que la Sublime Porte : "Il ne serait guère avantageux pour le Gouvernement Ottoman," ajoute le Premier Commissaire de Russie, "de s'opposer

à ce que la Commission prit certaines mesures pour assurer la dite application et la surveiller. Il y aura nécessairement entre l'évacuation de la province par les troupes Russes et la mise en pratique du Statut une période de transition, qui exigera une série de mesures provisoires. Les autorités locales ne seront pas autorisées à édicter ces mesures de leur propre chef et elles ne pourront parvenir à faire fonctionner efficacement le nouveau régime qu'en s'appuyant sur un Règlement revêtu de la sanction des Puissances.

Le Prince Tzeretelew rappelle à Abro Effendi que les garanties données par le Firman qui promulguera le nouveau Statut seront d'un ordre exclusivement moral. Les Plénipotentiaires de la Turquie à la Conférence de Constantinople avaient fait usage des mêmes arguments qui sont employés aujourd'hui par les Commissaires Ottomans, et néanmoins les Représentants des Puissances Européennes insistèrent pour la création d'une Commission de Surveillance. C'est le refus de la Sublime Porte d'accorder des garanties autres que morales qui a fait échouer la Conférence. D'ailleurs, le Traité de Berlin statue que le Firman Impérial qui promulguera l'ensemble des dispositions arrêtés pour la Roumélie Orientale devra être communiqué aux Puissances; ceci prouve, contrairement à ce qu'a avancé le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, que l'application du Statut ne regarde pas uniquement le Gouvernement Ottoman, mais encore, et au même degré, les Gouvernements Européens.

Le Baron de Ring s'exprime en ces termes: "Le Traité de Berlin ne prévoit rien au sujet de la manière dont sera appliqué le Statut Organique que nous avons été chargés d'élaborer; il ne touche cette question qu'incidemment, en décidant que la Commission Européenne sera chargée d'administrer les finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation. Cette disposition elle-même prête à différentes interprétations. Il est évident que c'est aux Puissances signataires qu'il appartient de trancher la question.

"Pour ce qui me regarde personnellement, je reconnais avec le Prince Tzeretelow qu'il serait contraire aux intérêts mêmes de la Sublime Porte qu'un intérim dangereux se produisit entre l'évacuation du pays par les troupes Russes et l'installation définitive du nouveau régime. Je n'ai aucune instruction spéciale qui me permette de discuter les mesures à prendre soit pour l'application du Statut, soit pour le maintien de l'ordre au moment de la retraite de l'armée d'occupation; mais je puis affirmer dès aujourd'hui que le Gouvernement Français, sans avoir d'opinion arrêtée sur les dispositions pratiques à prendre, désire cependant que la Commission soit prorogée jusqu'à l'installation du Gouverneur-Général, et qu'elle continue à siéger lorsque les nouvelles institutions commenceront à fonctionner."

M. de Kallay relève la différence de fond entre les idées suggérées par le Prince Tzeretelew et celles qui ont été formulées par Sir H. Drummond Wolff à la vingt-sixième séance: "Tandis que le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie," dit-il, "désire qu'il soit pris des dispositions générales pour l'application efficace du Statut, le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne n'avait en vue que de discuter les mesures propres à maintenir l'ordre au moment de l'évacuation. Personnellement je reconnais pleinement la gravité de l'une et de l'autre question; seulement, à mon avis, la Commission ne peut pas de son propre chef aborder ces sujets: aussi je me réserve de demander dans cette circonstance des instructions spéciales à mon Gouvernement."

Le Président prononce la clôture de l'incident et continue en ces termes:—

"Je crois devoir appeler l'attention de la Commission sur un vœu du Traité de Berlin, dont l'inexécution nous intéresse directement. L'Article XXIII du Traité dit que la Sublime Porte doit charger des Commissions Spéciales, au sein desquelles l'élément indigène sera largement représenté, d'élaborer des règlements pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe pour lesquelles il n'a pas été prévu d'organisation spéciale. Les projets d'organisation résultant de ces travaux doivent être soumis ensuite à l'examen de la Sublime Porte, qui, avant de promulguer les actes destinés à les mettre en vigueur, doit prendre l'avis de la Commission Européenne. A ma connaissance cet Article est resté jusqu'ici lettre-morte. Le Règlement de l'Ile de Crète nous a été seul communiqué, mais après sa publication, et j'ai, quant à moi, des doutes sur la régularité de cette procédure. Pour ce qui est des autres provinces, non-seulement les règlements nouveaux dont elles doivent être dotées n'ont pas été élaborés, mais on n'a pas même songé à former les Commissions Spéciales prévues par le Traité.

"Nous nous trouvons, par suite de cet oubli, en présence d'une situation politique d'une réelle gravité. Des contrées vastes et populeuses avaient obtenu, grâce au Traité de San Stéfano, la promesse d'une quasi indépendance. L'Europe les a replacées sous l'autorité directe de la Sublime Porte; mais en leur promettant des

réformes qui devaient constituer pour elles une sorte de compensation. Si ces promesses n'étaient pas réalisées, non-seulement la Porte, mais toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, se rendraient coupables d'un véritable déni de justice. La Commission Européenne a donc, à mon avis, le devoir d'insister pour que l'Article XXIII soit exécuté. Le sort des populations auxquelles cette clause doit profiter ne saurait la laisser indifférente. Je voudrais en conséquence demander à MM. les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien nous renseigner sur les intentions de leur Gouvernement au sujet de l'Article XXIII, et nous informer à quelle époque nous serons appelés à nous prononcer sur les règlements prévus par cet Article."

Le Colonel Schepelew rappelle que dans une des premières séances de la Commission, la même question avait été posée aux Commissaires Ottomans: "Son Excellence Assim Pacha et Abro Effendi," ajoute-t-il, "avaient alors consenti à prendre les informations voulues; peut-être seront-ils aujourd'hui en mesure de fournir une réponse?"

Abro Effendi fait observer que les Commissaires de Turquie avaient déclaré alors officiellement qu'ils n'avaient pour mandat que l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, mais que pour être agréables à ceux des Commissaires que ces informations pouvaient intéresser, ils s'adresseraient à la Sublime Porte pour lui demander des renseignements. Comme aussitôt après cette promesse tout-à-fait officieuse et privée, la Commission s'est transportée à Philippopoli, ils n'ont pu se procurer les informations demandées:—

"Quand on reproche à la Sublime Porte certains retards," dit en terminant le Deuxième Délégué de Turquie, "on devrait aussi se rappeler que depuis cinq ou six mois que la Commission est ici, elle n'a pas encore réussi à obtenir l'exécution de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, exécution qui a toujours été contrariée par l'administration de la Roumélie et dont la responsabilité ne saurait nous incomber."

Le Colonel Schepelew fait observer à Abro Effendi que le séjour de la Commission à Philippopoli n'a pu empêcher la Sublime Porte de faire tenir à ses Commissaires les renseignements demandés:—

"Pour ce qui est de l'inexécution de l'Article XIX," ajoute le Premier Commissaire de Russie, "cette question est tout-à-fait indépendante de celle qui a été soulevée par le Baron de Ring. Je rappellerai néanmoins que cet Article souffre non-seulement des circonstances mentionnées par Abro Effendi, mais encore du fait que certaines parties de la Roumélie Orientale sont occupées par les troupes Turques et se trouvent soustraites à l'Administration Financière de la Commission. Nous admettons parfaitement que la réunion immédiate des districts sud des Gouvernements de Tatar-Bazardjik et de Philippopoli, actuellement détenus par les Turcs, offre de grandes difficultés, le tracé exact de la frontière n'étant pas encore fait. Lorsque la question du district d'Ichtiman, qui se trouve dans une situation à peu près analogue, a été soulevée au sein de la Commission, nous avons nous-mêmes insisté sur ces difficultés, mais nous avons donné en même temps l'assurance que les comptes des dépenses et des recettes de ce territoire seraient tenus séparément, afin d'être remis à la Commission, aussitôt la délimitation faite.

"Nous n'exigerons pas aujourd'hui que les territoires occupés par les troupes Turques, contrairement au Traité de Berlin, soient immédiatement incorporés à la Roumélie Orientale, mais nous sommes en droit d'exiger des autorités Ottomanes les mêmes garanties financières que celles qui ont été données par l'Administration Russe."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha: "Je suis bien étonné d'entendre MM. les Commissaires de Russie nous reprocher l'inexécution d'engagements que nous n'aurions pas tenus. Nous n'avons jamais dit que nous nous refusions à fournir à la Commission les renseignements qu'elle désirerait. La Sublime Porte exécutera l'Article XXIII aussi ponctuellement, avec la même fidélité que tous les engagements qu'elle a pris à Berlin.

"Pourquoi jusqu'ici certaines informations ne nous ont-elles pas été données? Pour la raison bien simple que l'élaboration du Statut ne nous permettait pas de nous occuper d'autre chose. N'oublions pas du reste que le Traité de Berlin n'a pas fixé à la Porte un terme pour nous soumettre les différents Règlements. Nous avons donc toujours le temps de donner notre avis à leur sujet."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff croit que les difficultés qui s'opposent à ce que les autorités Turques remettent à la Commission l'Administration Financière des districts occupés par les troupes Ottomanes ne sauraient être comparées aux raisons qui ont empêché jusqu'ici l'Administration Russe de fournir les renseignements voulus sur les

douanes de Bourgas et les salines d'Achiolu, et le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff de remettre à la Commission les comptes de son Administration Financière.

Pour ce qui concerne la question soulevée par le Baron de Ring, à propos de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne est d'avis qu'il serait désirable de savoir au plus vite à quoi la Commission doit s'en tenir: "Mais," ajoute Sir H. Drummond Wolff, "la Commission n'a aucun droit d'initiative en cette matière, et n'est pas autorisée à faire une démarche officielle dans le but d'exiger la présentation des règlements prévus par le Traité de Berlin. Il est néanmoins heureux que cette question ait été soulevée, et je crois que nos Gouvernements doivent être informés par la Commission que celle-ci n'a pas encore eu l'occasion de donner son avis conformément à l'Article XXIII.

"En ce qui concerne spécialement le Règlement de l'Ile de Crète, sa publication est un fait accompli, et je ne crois pas que la Commission soit compétente pour juger de la régularité de celle-ci."

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il n'entrait pas dans ses intentions de suggérer un acte collectif de la Commission en vue de demander l'exécution de l'Article XXIII. Son but était uniquement d'obtenir de MM. les Commissaires Ottomans les renseignements nécessaires.

Le Colonel Schepelew, répondant à Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, dit que toutes les sommes provenant des douanes de Bourgas et des salines d'Achiolu sont à la disposition de la Commission. Si celle-ci ne les a pas encore reçues, le retard est purement matériel. Pour ce qui est des comptes relatifs à l'Administration Financière antérieure à la Résolution du $^{5}/_{7}$ Octobre, le Premier Commissaire de Russie croit devoir rappeler une fois de plus au Délégué de la Grande Brétagne qu'ils sont fournies à la Commission à titre de simple renseignements, et que le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff avait le droit de les refuser complétement.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit qu'il ne peut en aucune façon admettre le bien-fondé des opinions du Colonel Schepelew.

Il ajoute que, bien qu'il pense que la Sublime Porte devrait se hâter, il croit que l'initiative d'une démarche près du Gouvernement Ottoman au sujet de l'Article XXIII devrait venir des Puissances et non de la Commission.

Le Prince Tzeretelew s'étonne de voir que les Commissaires Ottomans aient soulevé, à propos de la non-exécution de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, la question des atteintes qui auraient été portées à l'Article XIX. "Les difficultés qu'a rencontrées l'Administration Financière de la Commission," dit le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "n'ont pas plus de rapport avec les règlements destinés à fonctionner dans les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe qui n'ont pas reçu d'organisation propre, qu'avec la question de la rectification des frontières de la Grèce. Or, personne ne songerait sérieusement à déduire de ces difficultés le droit pour la Porte de se refuser à la rectification dont il s'agit. Je souhaiterais d'ailleurs que le Gouvernement Ottoman fît preuve du même zèle pour exécuter l'Article XXIII que les autorités Russes en ont déployé pour faciliter l'Administration Financière de la Commission. Qui oserait prétendre que les Commissions visées par le Traité de Berlin ont été convoquées? Et pourtant les droits des populations Chrétiennes sont plus gravement lésés par ce fait que par le retard qu'a subi la remise des comptes des douanes de Bourgas et des salines d'Achiolu.

"Je n'ai pas l'intention de combattre l'assertion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff que la Commission n'a pas le droit d'exiger que les Règlements visés par l'Article XXIII lui soient soumis; mais je ferai observer qu'il est parfaitement légitime que nous tâchions d'obtenir des renseignements sur les intentions du Gouvernement Ottoman à ce sujet. La question posée par le Baron de Ring aux Commissaires de Turquie est d'autant plus opportune, qu'à la quatrième séance Abro Effendi disait: 'La Commission a un mandat spécial, auquel les Commissaires Ottomans attachent la plus grande importance, et elle ne peut rien entreprendre ou s'occuper de questions secondaires, sans avoir tout d'abord donné un commencement d'exécution à ce mandat.' Or, aujourd'hui la tâche spéciale dont parlait Abro Effendi est à peu près terminée, et le moment est venu de songer à celle qui nous reste à accomplir. Je rappellerai aussi qu'à la même séance les Commissaires Ottomans ont déclaré, 'qu'ayant été délégués spécialement pour élaborer, d'accord avec les Représentants des Puissances, l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, ils se considèrent comme incompétents pour s'occuper au sein de la Commission de toutes les matières concernant le reste de l'Empire.' Il y a donc contradiction entre les pouvoirs des Commissaires des Grandes Puissances et ceux des Délégués Ottomans; d'où découle pour nous la

nécessité de demander à nos collègues de Turquie s'ils sont munis aujourd'hui d'instructions leur permettant de participer aux travaux de la Commission visés par l'Article XXIII du Traité."

M. de Kallay croit comme le Prince Tzeretelew que le fait de la non-exécution d'un Article du Traité n'entraîne pas le droit de laisser en souffrance un autre: "Je constaterai seulement," dit le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, "que l'Article XIX a reçu une atteinte beaucoup plus grave du Chef des autorités Russes que ne semblent l'admettre le Colonel Schepelew et le Prince Tzeretelew, car l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne a été réduite, à la suite des entraves de toute sorte qui lui ont été opposées, à un simple service de caisse.

"Tout en partageant l'avis de Sir H. Drummond Wolff que la Commission n'est autorisée à prendre aucune initiative dans la question de l'exécution de l'Article XXIII, je m'associe au désir du Baron de Ring pour prier les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien nous éclairer au plus vite sur les intentions de la Sublime Porte à ce sujet."

Abro Effendi: "Nous transmettrons à la Sublime Porte le désir que nous a été exprimé, mais nous tenons à constater ici que la conduite du Gouvernement Impérial a été toujours très-régulière."

La Commission décide de prier M. Schmidt de se rendre à la séance, pour prendre part à la délibération sur la manière d'organiser la gestion des finances pendant l'absence de la Commission.

M. Schmidt est introduit.

Après un court échange d'idées, la Commission décide d'autoriser le Directeur-Général des Finances à faire des dépenses jusqu'à concurrence de 500*l.* sur la demande des autorités civiles.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe la prochaine séance au 5 Avril, à Constantinople.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 49.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams and despatches from Lord Donoughmore, at Philippopolis.

Among other points of interest, his Lordship reports disturbances on the northern slopes of the Rhodope Mountains and in Macedonia; a review of 15,000 National Guards at Tatar-Bazardjik; and the difficulties raised by Russian and Bulgarian officers to Colonel Vitalis' appointment to the command of the militia and gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Telegrams from Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Philippopolis, April 16, 1879.

THE Russian troops are in process of being withdrawn from the Rhodope, as foreshadowed in my telegram of the 8th.

There was an encounter between Bulgarians and Turks at Bukovo, near Haskeui, last Saturday. The former say Turks attacked them, and that they lost three or four, while the Turks lost 250. I believe the number to be greatly exaggerated.

To-day a review is being held at Tatar-Bazardjik by the Gymnastic Society. General Stolipine has gone to witness it. I hear similar reviews are to be held in all the principal towns, but that the great gathering here has been given up.

Philippopolis, April 19, 1879.

I hear Vitalis is being pressed by Russian authorities to accept a place in gendarmerie subordinate to Kissiakoff.

The latter it is said will not leave with the Russians.

Philippopolis, April 19, 1879.

I understand fresh disturbances broke out in Macedonia last Saturday, the 12th. A body of Bulgarians, numbered at 28,000, with eighteen guns, is reported to have already taken and destroyed several Turkish villages. The numbers are no doubt greatly exaggerated, but there were certainly disturbances.

Owing to the withdrawal from the Rhodope of Russian troops, there have been encounters between the Bulgarians and Turks in one or two instances; for instance, at Perutitza, and, as in my telegram of the 16th, at Bukovo. The aggressors seem to be Turkish brigands or Bashi-Bazouks. It is reported that the withdrawal of Russian troops has been arrested in consequence.

Philippopolis, April 19, 1879.

I hear the Gymnastic Societies, or, as they have since been christened, the National Guard of Ortakeui, refused to attend the review at Tatar-Bazardjik, and had to be fetched down by a detachment of gendarmerie.

Philippopolis, April 20, 1879.

I hear on good authority, that Colonel Kissiakoff declares, unless he is appointed head of gendarmerie, he will raise the existing force against the new organisation.

General Stolipine has been trying hard to make Colonel Vitalis apply in writing to the Russian authorities for employment in the gendarmerie; but he refuses on the ground that he would thereby practically render the Firman he holds from the Sultan of no value.

Stolipine affirms he cannot appoint Vitalis till he knows his military rank. This is not defined in the Firman.

French Commissioner has been asked to support a representation which is being made on the subject to Seraskier.

Vitalis is very anxious you should do the same.

Philippopolis, April 20, 1879.

General Stolipine has summoned Chief of Police and warned him on his peril that Afeko Pasha must be well received by the Bulgarians. Although the Porte consents to him, he is the Russian candidate and altogether their man.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 20, 1879.

WITH reference to my previous letters, I learn that the prosecution of the Turkish inhabitants has considerably abated, if not entirely ceased, and that efforts are being made to persuade them to remain in their villages.

They are, however, so terrified by past events and by the threats to which they have been subjected, that they appear to prefer following out their first impulses. Considerable numbers have been arriving here for the last few days.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 20, 1879.

I INFORMED you in my telegrams of the 16th and 19th, of encounters that had taken place between Turks and Bulgarians at Bukovo and Perustitza.

These instances are becoming frequent in the Rhodope, owing in a great measure to the withdrawal of the Russian forces.

As regards the Perustitza affair, it appears that a few weeks ago certain Pomaks came down upon the village and killed a Bulgarian shepherd. Perustitza is only four hours from here in a south-westerly direction.

About four or five days ago, a party of the Bulgarian militiamen left the village of Arapovo, which is situated in the Rhodope near Stanimaka, and is about four hours journey from Philippopolis, to go to another village about an hour further into the mountains. On the road they were attacked by Turkish marauders and eight of them were killed.

Again, from the village of Itelar, in the Haskeui district, Turks are said to have carried off 100 head of cattle and killed the man in charge.

In consequence of these incidents, it is reported that the retirement of the Russian force has been countermanded, but I have no authentic information on the subject.

I venture to draw your attention to the above cases, as they have taken place almost simultaneously, and may serve as a guide to what may be expected to occur in that particular portion of Eastern Roumelia after the Russian evacuation. There will be for some time no adequate force to preserve or rather to restore order.

During many months, a portion of the Rhodope has been in a state of disturbance, and upon the ultimate abandonment of the district by the Russians, and its being left to itself, the area of disturbance will undoubtedly increase.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 50.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 178. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 23, 1879.

ASSIM PASHA has just called upon me. He was shortly after followed by Abro Effendi.

I said to them that I had never wished to join in the somewhat irritating interpellations of Prince Tzeretelew, but I really thought it was time we should hear something of the projects of reform contemplated by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

Assim Pasha replied that the Porte fully intended, with some slight alterations, applying to the other European provinces the provisions of our Statute. He added that it would be impossible to withhold from these provinces the favourable conditions given to Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency then went on to say, that he was rejoiced at the provisions of our Statute. He had been obliged to oppose many of them in a perfunctory manner, but he personally would have been prepared to go much further in giving liberties to the population. He saw it was impossible any longer to make the people dependent on the personal character of the Governor. The latter must consult the wishes of the people.

The Central Government must not only reap: it must also sow. The Statute would give the people the means of working out their own prosperity, and thus offer the best guarantee against disaffection and mutiny. Hitherto, the provinces had been too much dependent on Constantinople. This central control must be removed.

Abro Effendi abounded in the same sense.

As there was no real reason for a visit from my Ottoman colleagues and as they have been recently in perpetual conferences with Caratheodory Pasha, I have no doubt they had received instructions to speak to me in this sense.

They had learnt, as everything is learnt here, that the Sultan had requested me to write a Memorandum for His Majesty, and they hinted, though very distantly, their hope that my suggestions would take this line.

With reference to my despatch No. 172, Confidential, of yesterday, it would perhaps be well for the present Commission to stay long enough to report on the proposed reforms under Article XXIII.

I am writing this despatch in great haste, being late for a meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 51.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 2.*)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a statement of the amount of the local loans on the 12th March.

This statement shows the following amounts of the current year's revenue to be affected to this class of debts:—

Indirect Revenue for the entire year estimated as follows:—

	£ T.	£ T.
Customs	1,500,000	
Tobacco	1,000,000	
Salt	700,000	
Spirits	180,000	
Silk	35,000	
		3,515,000
The sheep tax of certain vilayets to the extent of about		230,000
Tithes of olives of certain cazas, estimated at		45,000
Verghi of Constantinople, to the extent of about		44,000
		3,834,000

This list, which is not complete, does not include anything on account of the amount assigned out of the revenue for the redemption of the caimé.

Although the assignment under the Iradé of the 20th March amounts to one-fifth of the general revenue, the customs revenue was exempted, and it appears to be very uncertain to what extent the public will be able to take advantage of the arrangement, for the regulations do not appear to contemplate the exchange by the Treasury of gold against caimé, but merely allow the taxpayer to pay one-fifth in paper of what is due by him to the public Treasury.

It may therefore be assumed that the greater part of such revenue as is collected in small sums will be received entirely in coin, and that unless the coin so received is improperly exchanged by the receivers for paper, to the injury of the Treasury, the proportion of the revenue that will actually be applied to the redemption of the caimé will be very much less than one-fifth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure in No. 51.

STATEMENT of Local Loans.

Date of Contract.	Name of Creditor.	Rate of Interest.	Amount of Debt as on Nov. 12, 1878.	Amount of Debt as on March 12, 1879.
			£ T.	£ T.
1878. Nov. 11	Banque Impériale Ottomane	..	(A) 8,344,923 00	(K) 7,528,619 55
1870. Mar. 30	Société Générale de l'Empire Ottoman .	15 (?)	205,735 14	(G) 205,735 72
Aug. 7/19	Crédit Général Ottoman	24*	392,228 85	(C) 392,235 07
Nov. 2				
1873. Feb. 21	Banque de Constantinople	15 (?)	93,129 88	(D) 92,057 22
	Société Ottomane de Changes et Valeurs.	20	26,020 59	45,000 00
	M. Zarifi	11†	1,705,561 47	(E) 1,720,437 75
		15	165,887 74	170,728 47
1876. May 13	Agib Effendi	24	12,517 16	5,922 20
1878. July 17	Simon Bey	18	126,875 73	(F) 126,875 73
1875. Aug. 1/17	M. Hirsch	15	56,780 00	56,780 92
	MM. Lorando, Frères	..	..	1,660,000 00
1878. Dec. 2	MM. Fernandez et Barker	10	39,788 62	69,238 62
	M. Camara	15	37,551 92	(G) 38,273 92
	Helbig et Cie.	18	61,146 85	23,899 50
	M. Bergier	24	143,666 90	(H) 453,666 90
July 13	Succ. M. Baltazzi	11	133,485 14	127,676 40
	Debt of Ministry of Public Works ..	..	449,492 94	(I) 377,128 41
	Railway Loan	..	478,823 37	476,752 88
	Caisse des Orphelins	..		
			12,783,655 60	13,571,829 86
	Serghi de Syrie	..	..	(K) 736,022 12
	Instalment of Sinking Fund refused by holders of Loan of 1865	..	..	334,400 00
	Garanties accumulées des chemins de fer de Varna et Aïdin	..	..	1,085,753 67
			12,783,655 60	15,727,805 65

Remarks.

		£ T.
(A)	Quatre avances	3,176,539
	Compte courant	4,300,024
	Dette Publique	8,043
	Crédit pour fusils et cartouches	514,593
	Liste Civile	346,814
		8,344,923

Although standing in its name the bank has only a limited interest in the transaction known as the "Quatre Avances."

(B) The sheep tax for 1879–80 for the Vilayets of Aleppo, Aidin, Angora, Konieh, Salonik, Adana, and Kastamuni, is assigned to the Société Générale de l'Empire Ottoman.

(C) A deposit of 30,000,000 piastres caimé was given as part security for this loan.

(D) An assignment on the tithes of the Vilayet of Aidin for the past year, 1878–79, was held by the Banque de Constantinople.

(E) The indirect revenues are assigned in the first instance for the liquidation of the loans in the name of M. Zarifi (with the exception apparently of about £ T. 40,000, for which he holds an assignment of the tithes of the olive crop of certain Kasas). After the satisfaction of these loans, which is expected to be completed in about seven months, the indirect revenues are pledged for the loan concluded on the 2nd December last, in the names of MM. Fernandez and Barker; and when this is paid off are engaged under certain conditions for the debt due to the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

(F) The security for this loan consists of £ T. 2,260,000 stock of the "Dette Générale," and £ T. 809,000 bonds of the Loan of 1873.

(G) This debt is secured on the Verghi of the town of Constantinople.

(H) The revenues of the Vilayets of Brussa, Aidin, and Aleppo, for the year 1878–79, were assigned as security for this loan.

(I) These debts were incurred in connection with the projected 50,000,000 railway loan.

(K) An irregular local debt.

* A small part at 18.

† A small part at 16.

No. 52.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

Ambassade Impériale de Russie, le 1er Mai, 1879.

M. le Marquis,

VOUS aurez sans doute connaissance de la communication que j'ai faite hier à Sir J. Paunceforte concernant l'élection du Prince Alexandre Battenberg comme Prince de Bulgarie, et pour demander l'assentiment du Gouvernement Anglais par rapport à cet election.

Puis-je vous demander de me faire part de la réponse du Cabinet Britannique que le Gouvernement Impérial tiendrait à connaître.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 53.

Memorandum of Conditions precedent to Conclusion of a Contract between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the Imperial Ottoman Bank for a Loan to be raised for the Turkish Government upon the Security of the Customs Revenue, including the Indirect Taxes of the Empire.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury, May 2.)

AN Administrative Commission, to be appointed by an irrevocable Decree of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, composed of three members (with provision for augmenting the number to five as after mentioned) under the denomination of "Directors General of the Administration of the Custom and Indirect Taxes of the Imperial Ottoman Empire," of whom two members shall be appointed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan upon the nomination of the English Government, the members so appointed being irremoveable without the consent of that Government, the third Commissioner being appointed by His Imperial Majesty, and to be President of the Commission.

The English Government are willing, upon the request of the Sublime Porte, to make such nomination upon the following conditions:—

1. That the Commissioners appointed on the nomination of the English Government shall be irremoveable except with the consent or at the instance of that Government, and that in the event of the death or retirement of those Commissioners, or either of them, the Sublime Porte will from time to time, as often as occasion may require, appoint substitutes on the nomination of the English Government, which nomination that Government will undertake to make.

2. That His Imperial Majesty the Sultan will solemnly engage *vis-à-vis* the English Government.

That the absolute administration and direction of the Customs, and the indirect taxes, such as salt, tobacco, &c., which are at present included under the general term of "Customs Administration," shall, at a fixed date, be handed over to the Commissioners, who shall manage, control, and administer the same without any interference whatever on the part of the Turkish Government, who shall engage to afford to the Commissioners every support necessary to enable them effectually to discharge their functions.

That during the existence of the Commission the Turkish Government will not increase or diminish the existing scale of impost without previous approval of the Commissioners.

That for the purposes of administration the Commissioners shall have full and absolute power of employment and dismissal, as they may in their absolute discretion think necessary, of employés, clerks, &c., it being understood that, so far as practicable, the employés and clerks shall be Turkish subjects, but that the Commissioners are not debarred from employing foreigners to any extent they may think necessary for the proper administration.

That the Commissioners shall receive all the duties payable in respect of the matters under their administration, and shall in the first instance pay thereout all costs of administration, including their own salaries; and, secondly, pay to the agents of the new Loan the annual service for the same in the manner and at the times to be stipulated in the contract for that Loan; thirdly, to pay any balance there may be to the Turkish Government.

That the Commissioners shall render yearly to the Sublime Porte a detailed account of their administration, showing the sums received and the expenditure, and that a copy

of this yearly account shall be furnished to the English Governments for the information of the holders of the new Loan.

That the appointment of the Commission shall continue until the whole of the new Loan shall have been repaid.

That in the event of the French Government desiring hereafter to be represented on the Commission, then in that case the number of Commissioners shall be augmented from three to five, of whom two shall be appointed on the nomination of the French Government upon the same footing in all respects as the two Commissioners nominated by the English Government.

That, in addition, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan shall solemnly engage that when and so soon as the net yearly income of his Imperial Government, including the balance to be paid over by the Customs Commissioners, shall amount to a sum equivalent to £ sterling, the surplus income beyond that amount shall be handed over to the Commissioners to be administered by them *by dividing the same* amongst the holders of the bonds of the several Turkish Loans, including the general debt (excepting only the Loans of 1858, 1860, 1862, and 1863, however, which will be provided for in the scheme for the new Loan), such surplus to be divided yearly rateably amongst those bondholders who may be willing to agree to a conversion of their bonds upon the same basis as the option given to the holders of the four Loans for conversion of their holdings into bonds of the proposed Loan, viz., interest at 5 per cent. on 60 per cent. of the respective issue prices of the several Loans.

No. 54.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2*, 1879.

M. DE GIERS has announced to Prince Gortchacow that the Balkan Delimitation Commission has agreed upon a formula which satisfies the Emperor. The Prince now hopes your Lordship will allow Mr. Malet to communicate to the Porte, in writing, notes exchanged between his Highness and myself on the 29th March. He seems very anxious about this.

No. 55.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2*, 1879.

I HAVE communicated to Prince Gortchacow a confidential Memorandum recording the course of our recent negotiations, which the Prince has approved as correct and has transmitted to the Emperor. I send you copy by Russian messenger. I am in hopes that your Lordship will find that it coincides in every respect with your instructions as resumed in your telegram No. 53.

No. 56.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 2*, 1879.

I AM very anxious to know words of formula referred to by M. de Giers as having been unanimously agreed to by Delimitation Commission.

No. 57.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 166. Confidential.) *Pera, May 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 12, 13, and 14.

To-day I had an interview with the Russian Ambassador. He told me his plan, which alone he says can secure a quiet transition. I informed him that the Moscow Committee was distributing money. He asked me for proofs. These I said I could give him, were they not confidential; but if this were not the case, where was the money procured for the movement of large bodies of gymnastic societies to attend reviews?

Walpole sends me an important letter from the Moscow Committee. It was brought, together with sum of 40,000 Imperial Pauls, by M. Criloff, Russian Consul at Scutari, in Albania. It enjoins the Bulgarians to delay insurrection for some months, so as not to compromise Russia with England.

It is to be prepared meanwhile, and the Exarch and Metropolitan are invited to obtain from the European Commission the appointment of their own creatures for the principal posts.

This shows the dangers of the Russian Ambassador's proposals.

I have not yet received from you any formal instructions as to the return of the Commission to Philippopolis. Are we to negotiate terms and period of our prolongation? If so, all the Commissioners should receive instructions. I should be glad to hear exactly how matters stand between Powers on this head.

Walpole reports that Panslavist agents are making their way into Macedonia with money to foment insurrection. I do not hear anything of dissolution of gymnastic societies.

Please answer this by Eastern Telegraph.

No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 76.) *Vienna, May 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ZICHY, who has arrived here from Constantinople with the text of the Novi-Bazar Convention, has informed Count Andrassy of the wish of the Sultan that the Secret Article should be cancelled.

Count Andrassy tells me that, as the Article which provides that an attack upon one of the parties in the district in question should be regarded as an attack upon both, was introduced entirely for the benefit of Turkey, and confers no advantage upon Austria; it would of course be cancelled if the Sultan made a point of it, though his wish to do so was little short of an act of insanity.

No. 59.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 77.) *Vienna, May 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Ambassador has spoken to Count Andrassy about a mediation of the Powers on the Greek frontier question and a Conference of the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Count Augustenberg [? Andrassy] does not think it possible to defer offering mediation, but he doubts whether the best way of proceeding is by a Conference, believing that it would be preferable for the Ambassadors to act singly under separate instructions from their Governments, though of course as much as possible with [?] each other.

No. 60.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 2, 1879.*

THE points especially discussed between Count Schouvaloff and Count Andrassy were the period of evacuation and the Turkish occupation of Bourgas.

Ambassador began by saying his Government complained that Count Andrassy was less accommodating than Her Majesty's Government, with whom negotiations had been brought to a satisfactory point, and he hoped difficulties would not be raised here; Her Majesty's Government had recognized that there was no obligation upon Russia to have completed the evacuation before the 3rd August, but on reaching Vienna he found that Count Andrassy considered it ought to be effected by the 3rd May, though he hoped his Excellency would now adopt the other [group wrong]. Her Majesty's Government had also agreed that the Turkish occupation of Bourgas should not take place till after the Russian evacuation was complete, and it was to this arrangement that he wished to obtain Count Andrassy's assent [group wrong].

Count Andrassy tells me that he replied he would not agree to the complete evacuation being deferred till August, for even admitting, which he did not, that it was to be commenced instead of finished on the 3rd May, it could be easily carried out in six weeks.

It was finally settled that Count Schouvaloff should recommend his Government to undertake that the evacuation should be concluded by the 3rd July.

Count Andrassy insisted that from the commencement of evacuation the control over the militia must be given to the Governor and the Commission, and that by the 3rd July all Russian officers must be withdrawn from it; upon those conditions he will agree that the Turks shall not occupy Bourgas or Ichtiman till Russian evacuation is complete, if Her Majesty's Government [group omitted] of the same opinion, and he hopes your Lordship will support his views upon these matters, and also that you would join in recommending Porte to keep at once a strong force at Mustapha-Pasha as well as [group wrong].

No. 61.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 2, 1879.*

I HAVE received following three telegrams from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopolis:—

"Delegates from different branches of the Slavonic societies have been holding meetings for the last three days in this town for the purpose of consulting on the course of action to be followed in view of the Russian evacuation, and their deliberations have hitherto been favourable to submission to Berlin Treaty, their Russian advisers, both official and self-constituted, having, I am assured, counselled them in that sense. Their final decision is expected to-morrow.

"Exarch states that he has adopted measures to secure moderation in these proceedings."

"I am credibly informed that Turkish authorities and troops in the Rhodope are taking active measures to prevent any further collisions between Pomaks and Bulgarians, now that Russian troops are about to withdraw, and that they have succeeded in establishing fair state of tranquillity."

"Mr. Calvert has learnt that in the frontier districts of Macedonia hostilities on a large scale are likely to commence shortly, a number of Montenegrin, Servian, and Russian officers having arrived to take command of Bulgarians concentrated in the mountains along the Macedonian frontier, and that Russian agents are on the way to confer with the principal insurrectionary Committee for Macedonia, which sits at Kustendil."

No. 62.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 392.) *Therapia, May 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that the mission of General Aboutcheff, who has arrived here, is to dispel any illusion which the people of Eastern Roumelia may have still that they will receive any support from Russia if they resist execution of Treaty of Berlin.

No. 63.

Lord Tenterden to MM. Gueshoff and Yancoloff.

Foreign Office, May 2, 1879.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 28th ultimo, together with its inclosure, containing a communication with respect to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 64.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 1. Political.) *Salonica, April 18, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE Ottoman authorities here are very apprehensive of renewed attempts to provoke an outbreak among the Bulgarians in Macedonia.

They have heard from their secret agents that a band of 800 Bulgarians is being organized at Kustendil by the Bulgarian Archbishop of Ochrida, for the purpose of making incursions in the direction of the districts of Stroumnitza and Malesh; and as this report has been confirmed by the most recent accounts received from the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Cossova, two battalions of infantry were dispatched from here this morning to reinforce the garrison in those districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 65.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 2. Political.) *Salonica, April 18, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the late Easter festival has been celebrated by the Christian communities at Salonica, Volo, and Larissa, in the midst of perfect order and tranquillity; and that the Ottoman civil and military authorities have shown all proper marks of attention and respect to the customary religious processions, and, in some instances, took part in the public rejoicings of the peoples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 66.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 3. Political.) *Salonica, April 18, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Mr. Longworth a telegram, dated the 13th instant, and worded as follows:—

"Commander-in-chief called and told me, confidentially, that last night he received instructions from the Porte to employ all troops against brigands, as war with Greece is unlikely."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 67.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 4. Political.) *Salonica, April 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with a copy of its inclosure, which I addressed, on the 21st instant, to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, relative to the population of the Sandjak of Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Salonica, April 21, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 17th instant I sent your Excellency the following telegram in answer to your telegraphic inquiry relative to the population of the Sandjak of Janina:—

"According to the Turkish Official Returns the male population of the Sandjak of Janina is composed of 18,014 Mahommedans, 84,499 Christians, and 1,515 Jews, total, 104,028 males; percentage of Christians about 81.

"Austrian Consul-General's Report, published four years ago, estimates the town population of Janina at 6,000 Mahommedans, 10,000 Christians, and 4,000 Jews, total, 20,000 of both sexes."

After forwarding the above telegram, I obtained from another source the inclosed Table of the male population of the sandjak in question.

I submit it to your Excellency, as it is more comprehensive, and does not materially differ from the estimates furnished in my telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

MALE Population of the Sandjak of Janina in Epirus.

Town and Districts of the Sandjak.	Mahommedans.	Christians.		Jews.	Total.
		Greek.	Greco-Wallach.		
Town of Janina	2,500	4,000	..	1,550	8,050
Sub-districts—					
Zagori	..	8,000	4,000	..	12,000
Courenda	..	10,000	..	..	10,000
Malneassi	..	7,000	2,200	..	9,200
Tzarcovistas	..	5,200	..	..	5,200
Districts—					
Meizovo	..	..	3,300	..	3,300
Grevena	3,000	8,000	7,500	..	18,500
Sub-district—	600	2,000	..	..	2,600
Vendja					
Districts—					
Paramithina	2,800	6,000	..	..	8,800
Philiates	5,000	7,000	..	..	12,000
Conitza	3,600	8,000	2,000	..	13,600
	16,900	65,200	19,500	1,550	103,150

Total male population, 103,150.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Salonica, April 23, 1879.

No. 68.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 5. Political.) *Salonica, April* 23, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram I addressed on the 21st instant to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, reporting the movements of a Bulgarian band of insurgents who have crossed over into Macedonia.

I also inclose to your Lordship copies of a letter and two telegrams which have been communicated to me by the Ottoman Commissioner for the Salonica Railway, furnishing some further particulars on the subject.

Salih Pasha, the Commander of the troops in Macedonia, is preparing to leave Salonica to-night for Demir-Kapou, the point threatened by the insurgents; and I have reason to believe that he has applied to the Porte for a reinforcement of six battalions of infantry.

In the meantime, I regret having to report that brigandage is assuming alarming proportions, and causing much trouble to the authorities and inhabitants in this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Salonica, April 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR-GENERAL of Salonica received this day telegrams from interior stating that yesterday a band of 400 Bulgarian insurgents crossed over from Bulgaria and occupied Novitchau, four hours from Stroumnitza, threatening to cut railway at Demir-Kapou.

Two companies of infantry and one squadron of cavalry were dispatched this afternoon by express train to last-named place.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

M. Steiner to Mr. Cooper.

Salonique, le 21 *Avril*, 1879.

PLUSIEURS télégrammes adressés aujourd'hui par les autorités militaires et administratives de l'intérieur au Commandant Militaire et au Vilayet de Salonique ainsi que les nouvelles reçues de nos propres agents, annonçaient un mouvement de plusieurs bandes d'insurgés du côté de Strumnitza se dirigeant le long du chemin de fer vers Demirkapou, "dans l'intention de couper la ligne du chemin de fer et détruire ses ponts."

A l'appui, j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre la copie du premier télégramme adressé à son Excellence Saly Pacha.

Inquiété sérieusement par ces manœuvres, et n'osant exposer aux insurgés le train mixte d'Uskub à Salonique, pour les motifs que, d'un côté les insurgés ont pu exécuter leurs intentions quant à la voie ferrée, et d'un autre côté, pouvant se rendre maîtres du train qui contient des valeurs considérables, j'ai préféré de faire arrêter le train à Krivolok où il est à l'abri de toute attaque.

Son Excellence Saly Pasha a envoyé, à 5 heures du soir, 150 soldats et 45 cavaliers, qui auront la tâche de surveiller et défendre les ponts et la ligne du kilom. 103 au kilom. 118.

Si demain le 22 courant les nouvelles seront rassurantes le train mixte d'Uskub arrivera le même soir à Salonique.

Veuillez, &c.

L'Inspecteur de l'Exploitation,

(Signé) STEINER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 68.

Osman Pasha to Salih Pasha.

Salonique, le 21 *Avril*, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

AVIS sûr que insurgés, nombre 300, ayant Chef Staiko, sont passés par Novitchan, à 4 heures de Strumnitza. Intention couper ligne chemin de fer, détruire ponts, et passer à Tikvieho.

J'ai donné ordre soldats poursuivre. Détails par poste.

Inclosure 4 in No. 68.

M. Aristides to M. Steiner.

Demirkapou, le 22 *Avril*, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

A L'INSTANT est arrivé ici un cavalier de Klissoura invitant corps cavalerie s'y rendre au secours.

Insurgés, dit-il, se battent avec militaires partis ce matin.

Cavalerie partie sitôt.

No. 69.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 6. Political.) *Salonica, April* 23, 1879.

My Lord,

HAVING heard, on the eve of my departure from Thessaly, that a dragoman of the Hellenic Consulate of Salonica was employed in distributing money to the Christian villages in the districts of Catterina and Veria (Karaferia), with a view to inciting a demonstration in favour of Greece, I requested Colonel Synge, who is in that direction, to make inquiries into the matter, and I now beg leave to inclose his Report.

I should add that the Hellenic Consul-General here has explained to the Governor-General that the money distributed by his dragoman was sent to him from Greece for the

relief of the Christian villagers who suffered from the insurrection in the districts of Mount Olympus in 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Veria, April 18, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your cypher telegram, dated Volo, 12th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have made inquiries as to the matter referred to, with the following results:—

The dragoman of the Greek Consulate at Salonica, provided with a boyourldé from the Governor, shortly before the Easter feast, visited certain portions of the district of Veria, with a view to distributing money, nominally to the sufferers by the disturbances of last year.

To the military authorities he stated that it was a distribution by the Red Cross Society. The Bishops of Colindro and Veria refused to authorize or recognize any such distribution in their respective dioceses, and the dragoman accompanied a certain Christian landed proprietor named Kelnassio in the distribution, which was to be at the rate of 1,000 piastres, to the families of those who were killed in the disturbances, and 6½ piastres per nouffoz to other sufferers.

I was unable to ascertain any case in which the former sum was given.

A few days subsequently the local landed proprietor (Kelnassio) was seized by a band of brigands on his own property, the band consisting entirely of men of this district, and two of his followers were killed and himself held to ransom for 6,000 liras.

I am unable to ascertain that the distribution of money was accompanied by the unfolding of any direct scheme, but was rather looked upon by the villagers as a reparation and apology for their being so deceived and misled last year.

In the words of one of my informants, there was "little money, but much tall talk."

The matter would have had no significance at another time, or carried out by a person not a political agent, but now it has the effect of disturbing the people's minds and swelling the already formidable number of brigands in the district, who probably rely on future disturbances to make their peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 70.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 68. Political.)

Scutari, April 20, 1879.

My Lord,

THE two Albanian nobles, Abdoul Bey, of Phersala, and Mehemed Ali Bey, of Berat, who have recently visited Rome, and are now, I believe, in Paris, on a political errand, have addressed letters to their friends in the principal towns of Middle Albania, urging them to oppose all ideas tending towards future connection with Greece, the institutions of which country they describe in very unflattering terms.

The mission of these Beys to Italy and France does not appear to have caused the Turkish authorities any uneasiness, as they seem convinced that Mahommedans are incapable of plotting against the Sultan. I, however, believe that historical antecedents, traditions, and education render the separation from the Ottoman Government of the Mahommedan Albanians less difficult than the Turks imagine.

It must not be forgotten that a short time ago Abdoul Bey and his companion were discussing secretly with the Hellenic Government the feasibility of an Albano-Greek confederation, through which the Mahommedan nobles of this country could retain their preponderating influence, and that the present appeal to Italy has been made on the instigation of Italian Agents, who have been able to swamp Greek offers by picturing the greater advantages which the Mahommedans would secure through the formation of an entirely independent State.

The appeal to France is said to have been made merely with the object of somewhat withdrawing attention from the alleged ends sought in Rome.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 71.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 8. Political.)

Corfu, April 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a Memorial addressed to me by the Epirote fugitives who found a refuge in this island since their rescue from certain death by Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" in February 1878, when their village was sacked and burnt by the Turkish troops.

2. I hesitated at first to receive this Memorial; but on learning that one conceived in similar terms had been accepted by the French Consul, and that the Ottoman Consul-General had consented to forward to Constantinople the humble Petition of the refugees to the Sultan, imploring pardon and permission to return to their former homes, I felt that I could scarcely refuse to bring the case of those unfortunate victims of oppression under your Lordship's notice.

3. I have taken all the information within my reach respecting the truth of the allegations contained in the Memorial, and from all that I have been able to learn they are in no way exaggerated.

4. It is so far pleasing to be able to report to your Lordship that, from the day of their arrival here, those refugees have been provided for in a way that does honour to this local Government, having been comfortably lodged and well supplied with daily rations at the public expense, for all which they appear deeply grateful, but at the same time express a longing desire to return to their old homes, and look forward with confidence to the generous support of Her Majesty's Government in the endeavours they are now making to accomplish this object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Memorial.

(Traduction du Grec.)

Au Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Corfu.

LES très-respectueux Soussignés, Représentants de la Commune de Licoursi, située en Epire, et dans le ressort de l'Eparchie de Delvino, prennent la liberté de vous exposer par la présente humble supplique, les procédés arbitraires par lesquels ils ont été privés de leurs droits.

Le village de Licoursi, aujourd'hui en ruines, et comptant 300 familles Chrétiennes, possédait des maisons et des terrains d'une grande étendue, dont la culture procurait une subsistance aisée aux habitants, tout en payant au Gouvernement Impérial la dîme et les autres impôts légitimes, comme tous les autres villages. Par malheur, certains Beys Albanais de Delvino—les nommés Abdoul et Suleiman Selim, intriguèrent et firent écrire, il y a bien du temps, à Constantinople, que le village de Licoursi n'était pas de propriété libre, mais qu'il était "chillick," c'est-à-dire que le fameux Ali Pacha Tépéléni l'avait acheté, avec plusieurs autres villages, enlevés pourtant aux Chrétiens par la violence, et qu'il s'était appropriés. Tel étant l'état des choses nous avons alors, en 1863, envoyé à Constantinople une députation composée de trois membres: le Papa Laraze, Athanase Zoura, et Constantin Daico, pour réclamer à la Sublime Porte contre l'arbitraire commise par les susdits Beys, en s'appropriant notre village et nos biens libres.

Après examen fait de l'inventaire des biens du fameux Ali Pacha, rédigé par une Commission *ad hoc* envoyée à Janina en 1821, le Gouvernement trouva ce qui suit dans le "Royal Hazinè," relativement au village de Licoursi:—"Dans le village de Licoursi, composé de 300 maisons, était un vieux château en ruines qu'Ali Pacha fit restaurer et dont il confia le commandement aux Beys Cocatas et Mustapha Agatas,"

sans que, d'ailleurs, les Commissaires eussent mentionné que le village avait été fait "chiflick" par Ali.

Se basant sur cet acte, le Gouvernement Impérial ordonna au Contrôleur du Cadastre (Deuter-Hanâ) de se prononcer, et une sentence fut émise à l'effet que le village de Licoursi était libre et non "chiflick." Cette sentence est entre nos mains.

En vertu de cette décision la Sublime Porte envoya un ordre Vizirial au Gouverneur de Janina pour éloigner les Beys qui occupaient notre village, mais ceux-ci usèrent de leur influence pour faire soutenir leur cause, et réussirent à faire suspendre l'exécution de l'ordre. Il fallut donc envoyer un nouvel ordre au Gouverneur de Janina pour que les blés fussent emmagasinés et mis sous scellés par l'autorité locale, afin de les donner à qui de droit après jugement définitif de la contestation, ce qui eut lieu en 1865. Consécutivement, le Conseil d'Etat (Alicami Adélié), saisi de la question, sur le vu des documents entre les mains de nos Représentants, c'est-a-dire la sentence du Contrôleur et l'inventaire des biens d'Ali Pacha, décida ce qui suit: "Attendu qu'une rente annuelle de 4,100 piastres a été constituée au Royal Huziné, vous aurez à la payer, ainsi que les impôts ordinaires, et vous garderez vos propriétés."

Alors nos Représentants acceptèrent, bon gré mal gré, la décision du Conseil d'Etat, et nous attendions copie de ces actes, avec des ordres pour que les Beys fussent éloignés, et les blés emmagasinés distribués aux habitants du village.

Trois jours après nos Représentants étant allés réclamer les pièces en question apprirent avec étonnement qu'on venait de les envoyer à Janina, où, disait-on, ils pourraient mieux arranger leur affaire. On avait fait cela pour ne pas leur remettre la copie de la sentence, et parce que moyennant les intrigues de Mehemet Ali, fils d'Abdoul Bey, alors Garde du Corps de feu le Sultan Abdul Aziz, on avait réussi à obtenir un "Teschéré" d'un Vizir aujourd'hui decédé adressé au Président du Conseil, dans lequel il était dit: "Tâchez de faire que le village libre de Licoursi reste chiflick des Beys." C'était en vain que nos malheureux Représentants firent observer qu'à Janina ils ne pourraient obtenir justice, à cause de l'influence que les Beys exerçaient dans le pays. Après d'inutiles protestations ils furent mis en prison avec les malfaiteurs dans le "Zaptié Kapu," et l'on ordonna de les renvoyer enchaînés et sous escorte à Janina, quand, craignant d'être assassinés en route, ils se virent contraints de se démettre de leurs pouvoirs, par écrit, pourtant, sans jamais renoncer à nos droits, pas plus que nous n'y renoncions nous-mêmes. Alors ils furent relâchés par l'entremise de l'honorable Monseigneur Zarifé.

Par suite de la rénonciation de nos Représentants nos droits furent sacrifiés, les blés en dépôt furent partagés, nos souffrances redoublèrent, nous eûmes à subir des exactions arbitraires. Il nous fallut nourrir les gens que les Beys avaient placés comme surveillants dans nos domaines, et cet état de choses dura jusqu'au mois de Février de l'année dernière. A cette époque, aigris par tant d'injustices, d'oppressions, et de tortures, voyant que malgré tous nos efforts nous ne pouvions rien obtenir du Tribunal ("Devleti"), et que les Beys continuaient à jouir de nos biens et de nos sueurs, en désespérés nous nous jetâmes aux bras de la révolution, dont nous attendions d'être délivrées de nos maux. Mais, malheureusement, nous sommes tombés de mal en pire, comme il est à la connaissance de votre Seigneurie; et sans l'envoi du bâtiment de la marine Royale Britannique le "Rapid," nos familles n'existeraient plus aujourd'hui. Exilés ici en face de notre terre natale, nous désirons ardemment y retourner et y vivre sous l'égide puissante du Sultan, si l'on nous concède notre village en propriété libre, suivant la décision du Conseil d'Etat, et sous garant de la part de la Sublime Porte que dorénavant notre vie, nos biens, et notre honneur seront respectés.

Dans ce but nous avons aussi supplié le Consul-Général Ottoman, Conemenos Bey, résidant dans cette ville, de vouloir bien transmettre nos plaintes à Sa Majesté le Sultan, afin qu'il nous accorde l'amnistie pour des actes auxquels le désespoir nous a entraîné, en voyant qu'après avoir travaillé aux récoltes avec nos bœufs, notre semaille, et notre argent, il nous fallait, en dehors de la dîme Royale et des impôts légitimes payés par les autres villages, payer encore le tiers de nos produits aux dits Beys, usurpateurs de nos biens, et nourrir leurs hommes, sans rien garder pour nous du fruit de nos travaux, et nous avons vivement supplié Sa Hautesse de nous rendre justice, et nous nous engageons de vivre sous son égide en sujets fidèles.

Nous adressons ci-joint à votre Seigneurie copie de la supplique que nous avons soumise au Consul Ottoman, sans espérer pourtant d'obtenir pleine justice du Gouvernement Ottoman auprès duquel le bon plaisir ("hatiri") a toujours plus de poids que les droits de 300 familles Chrétiennes. Nous implorons la pitié de votre Seigneurie pour

que la généreuse, grande, et miséricordieuse nation Anglaise veuille soutenir par tous les moyens convenables notre demande auprès de la Sublime Porte, et s'intéresser en faveur de nous, misérables, pour ce que nos biens nous soient rendus moyennant le paiement des impôts légitimes, et même de 4,100 piastres annuels au Trésor Impérial, et nous voulons prier Dieu Tout-Puissant qu'il daigne accorder une longue et glorieuse vie à Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne et prospérité à la nation Britannique.

Nous osons espérer, Monsieur, que les prières de vos très-humbles serviteurs seront écoutées, &c.

Corfou, le 10 *Avril*, 1879.

(Signé) KOSTA DIMA.
LASKA DIGNOTATIS.
JEAN B. F. PRIFTIS.

No. 72.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 487.)

My Lord, *Paris, May* 2, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 47 of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which I have informed the French Government that Her Majesty's Government approve of the election of Prince Alexander of Battenburg as Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Lord Lyons to M. Waddington.

M. le Président du Conseil, *Paris, May* 2, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government, having received official intelligence of the election of Prince Alexander of Battenburg as Prince of Bulgaria by the Bulgarian National Assembly, have instructed me to inform the French Government that they approve of this election.

In executing this instruction, I am happy to have a fresh opportunity of offering to your Excellency the assurance of the very high consideration with which, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 73.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, May* 2, 1879.

MONTENEGRIN Commission have met Turk, and go to Scutari on 4th instant to commence work on boundary from Scutari Lake to sea. Please address letters care of Consul-General, Scutari.

No. 74.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, May* 2, 1879.

I TELEGRAPHED to your Lordship, *en clair*, the election of Prince Alexander within few minutes after it took place. I will inform Russian and Turkish Commissioners of the [attitude of?] Her Majesty's Government, as instructed by your Lordship.

No. 75.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 3.*)

(No. 393.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1879.*

CONSUL-GENERAL MICHELL reports that at a dinner on the Emperor of Russia's birthday, at which the Consular Corps was present, General Stolipine proposed a toast "To the unification of the Southern Slavs and the prosperity of the Southern Bulgarians," and that the Commander of the Eastern Roumelia Militia called upon the company to drink to the health of General Stolipine, the "creator and organizer of the Southern Bulgarians."

It would seem as if the first step towards the dissipating the illusions of the Eastern Roumelians (mentioned in my telegram No. 392) should be the recall of General Stolipine.

No. 76.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879, 4 P.M.*

PLEASE send to me, and simultaneously to Lord Dufferin, exact words of proposition unanimously accepted by your Commission as reported in your telegram No. 8 of the 30th ultimo.

No. 77.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879, 4·10 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 64.

The notes exchanged between you and Prince Gortchacow, 29th March, were communicated to Porte by Mr. Malet on 26th April and by Prince Labanoff on 28th April.

No. 78.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 69 of the 1st instant, and to yours No. 66, I have received the following figures from General Hamley, dated the 26th ultimo:—

(Repeat figures of General Hamley's telegram No. 6.)

I have not the precise words agreed to, but have asked General Hamley to send them to you.

No. 79.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879.*

IN your telegram No. 78 please repeat last sentence.

I am unable to understand where Count Schouvaloff procures his facts. We have never admitted to Russian Government that there was no obligation upon Russian Government to have completed evacuation before 3rd August.

In deference to Count Andrassy's opinion, we have abstained from any attempt to define the dates of Article XXII.

I concur with Count Andrassy's views as reported by you, which are in accordance with those already expressed by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 80.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879, 7·40 P.M.*

I THINK it would be very desirable if Austrian Government would delay acceding to Sultan's proposal to abrogate Secret Article until Sir H. Layard has had a chance of remonstrating with the Sultan.

No. 81.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 290.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879.*

IT appears from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 78) that Count Schouvaloff informed Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had recognized that Russia was under no obligation to complete the evacuation before the 3rd August. I am unable to understand from what source Count Schouvaloff could have procured facts upon which he could base this statement. Her Majesty's Government have never admitted to the Russian Government that they considered the latter to be under no obligation to evacuate before the 3rd August. I stated to your Excellency in my despatch No. 139 of the 4th March that I doubted whether the terms of Article XXII could be interpreted to declare that the evacuation should be completed by the 4th May, and that, in my opinion, the natural sense of the Article was that it should commence upon that date, and be conducted with all reasonable despatch; and that no Russian soldier should remain south of the Pruth on the 3rd August. But I informed you in my despatch No. 145 of the 8th of the same month that I had not communicated this interpretation to any Power but Austria, and that I should not do so until I should have heard the view of the subject which might be definitively adopted by Count Andrassy. I have adhered to this promise, and have consequently abstained from any attempt to define the dates specified in the XXIInd Article.

Since I have heard from your Excellency that Count Andrassy has acquiesced for practical purposes in the Russian contention, I have not thought it necessary to observe any further reticence with respect to the view which Her Majesty's Government has entertained upon the interpretation of the Article since the question was first mooted.

I concur with the views upon the question expressed by Count Andrassy, as reported in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, which are in accordance with those to which expression has already been given by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 82.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 292.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 3, 1879.*

UPON the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 76), stating that Count Andrassy had informed you that the Austro-Hungarian Government would cancel the Secret Article annexed to the Austro-Turkish Convention if the Sultan insisted, as the Article was entirely for the benefit of Turkey, I telegraphed to you that, in my opinion, it was very desirable that the acceptance of the Sultan's proposal should be delayed until Sir H. Layard should have returned to his post, and should have had an opportunity of endeavouring to induce the Sultan to withdraw his request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 83.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May 3, 1879.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs approves of Commission accompanying Aleko Pasha to advise him.

He thinks decisions of Conference of Ambassadors on Greek question must be given unanimously, not by majority of votes.

I understand Count Schouvaloff, who is here, and has seen French Minister for Foreign Affairs, goes on to London to-morrow morning.

No. 84.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 396. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Austrian Government has replied that, though surprised at the request to cancel the Secret Article of the Convention as it was drawn up solely to produce confidence between the two Empires, still, as it was the Sultan's wish, they do not hold to it, and will empower Count Zichy to cancel it formally on his return.

No. 85.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 397.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1879.*

I HAVE sent following to Mr. Green:—

"Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Sultan has replied to Prince's telegram announcing birth of a son."

No. 86.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1879.*

GREEK Patriarch sends me a note, stating that the Greeks of Boyaliki, in Eastern Roumelia, are threatened with attack by Bulgarians on Tuesday next for having refused to accept arms from the Bulgarian Committee.

No. 87.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1879.*

GENERAL OBRUTSCHEFF had an audience of the Sultan to-day with the two Russian Commissioners. He presented a letter from the Emperor proposing the suspension of the Balkan garrisons for one year, during which the Commission is to be prolonged; the Turks to have the right to garrison one point on the coast.

He is going to Philippopolis with the two Russian Commissioners, and then will make a tour of the province to calm the minds of the people.

Namyk Pasha is going with a letter from the Sultan to Livadia.

No. 88.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, May 3, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Malet:—

"Prince has been greatly flattered and pleased by the Sultan's answer to His Highness' telegram. He has, therefore, authorized me to say that he accepts in principle obligation to send the first (*sic*) a Representative to Constantinople, and that he will do so as soon as he can select a proper person and settle important question of necessary expenditure.

"I leave for Scutari to-morrow with the Demarcation Commission."

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 3, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs is decidedly of opinion that the European Commissioners should accompany Governor-General to Philippopolis, and that they should proceed there with as little delay as possible.

Aleko Pasha left this for Constantinople three days ago.

No. 90.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 40 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 4, 1879.*

REPETITION asked for in your telegram No. 40.

It was finally settled that Count Schouvaloff should recommend his Government to undertake that the evacuation should be concluded by the 3rd July.

Count Andrassy insisted that from the commencement of the evacuation the control over the militia must be given to the Governor and the Commission, and that by the 3rd July all Russian officers must be withdrawn from it. Upon those conditions he will agree that the Turks shall not occupy Bourgas or Ichtiman till Russian evacuation is complete, if Her Majesty's Government are of the same opinion, and he hopes your Lordship will support his views upon these matters, and also that you would join in recommending Porte to keep at once a strong force at Mustapha-Pasha as well as at Adrianople.

No. 91.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1879.*

RUSSIANS have been systematically misrepresenting at Vienna our language to them. They may be doing the same at Constantinople. My telegram to Dufferin No. 19 of the 8th April contains exactly what we have proposed. Contradict everything else.

Turks would make a very serious mistake if they bound themselves, by a formal pledge, for the space of one year to occupy nothing but the sea-coast of Eastern Roumelia.

I am only deprecating a pledge; what garrisons they may find it convenient to establish is another matter.

No. 92.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1879.*

THE following telegram has been received from Wolff, dated yesterday:—

[See No. 87.]

If the above intelligence is true, it would appear that Russia, having failed in London and Vienna to obtain limitation of Turkish garrisons to Bourgas for a year, is trying at Constantinople. I have instructed Mr. Malet to oppose the giving of any such pledge.

Will Count Andrassy do the same?

No. 93.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1879.

YOUR telegram of yesterday.

Does Mr. Malet know of Emperor's letter to Sultan. If not, tell him.

No. 94.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1879, 11 P.M.

YOURS 165. I have asked the five Courts whether they were willing that Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha in order to advise him. All agree except Russia, which wishes that Aleko should enter the province alone under Russian auspices.

I think you had better raise the question in the Commission, and move that the Commission accompany Governor-General to Philippopolis.

No. 95.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 632.)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1879.

Sir,

AS it has become evident that the language of Her Majesty's Government to that of Russia has been systematically misrepresented to Count Andrassy by the Russians at Vienna, and as Prince Labanoff may possibly be acting in a similar manner at Constantinople, I have thought it advisable to inform you, in a telegram dated to-day (No. 40), that my telegram to Lord Dufferin, No. 19 of the 8th ultimo, contains the exact substance of the proposals which have really been made by Her Majesty's Government to that of Russia, and I have authorized you to contradict any statements which may be made in a different sense.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the Porte would make a very serious mistake if it bound itself by a formal pledge that for the space of a year its troops should occupy only the sea coast of Eastern Roumelia. It will be a matter for the future consideration of the Turkish Government what garrisons they may find it convenient to establish in the province, but Her Majesty's Government strongly deprecate their giving a pledge which would confine their action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 96.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 294.)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1879.

Sir,

SIR H. D. WOLFF telegraphs from Constantinople that General Obgustacheff has presented to the Sultan a letter from the Emperor of Russia proposing that the Porte should suspend for one year their right to garrison the Balkans, during which time the Commission should be prolonged and Turkish troops should be allowed to garrison one point on the coast.

If this information is correct it would appear that the Russian Government, having failed in their endeavours to obtain the assent of the British and Austrian Governments to the proposal for the limitation of the Turkish garrisons for a year to the occupation of Bourgas, is trying to induce the Turkish Government to adopt the suggestion. I

have instructed Mr. Malet to oppose the giving of any such pledge by the Porte, and I should be glad if Count Andrassy would send similar instructions to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 223.)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 165 of the 2nd instant, I have consulted the Five Great Powers as to their willingness that the Commissioners for the organization of Eastern Roumelia should accompany the newly-appointed Governor-General to Philippopolis in order to act as his advisers, and I have now to state to you that all the Governments have agreed to this measure with the exception of that of Russia, which desires that Aleko Pasha should enter the province alone, and under Russian auspices only. Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that you would do well to raise the question in the Commission, and I have accordingly instructed you, in my telegram No. 16 of this day, to move that the Commission accompany the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia to Philippopolis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 98.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Aleppo, April 15, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the official journal of the Vilayet of Aleppo, containing a statement of a speech supposed to have been delivered by Kiamil Pasha to the persons who presented him with a copy of the Turkish Code and a sword.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Speech reported to have been made by Kiamil Pasha.

(Traduction.)

JE remercie les Nobles, les grands personnages, et les Chefs spirituels d'Alep du signe d'amitié et de respect qu'ils m'ont témoignés. Mon remerciement n'aurait pas été moins grand si vous m'auriez présenté au lieu de ce Code impérial et de l'épée montée en diamants, une simple plume et épée. Je n'estime pas sans doute dans cette épée l'or et les diamants; mais je la considère à son juste titre, puisqu'elle dénote une preuve palpable qu'illustre ma nécrologie dans mes services à l'Empire Ottoman.

Ma surveillance active à la tranquillité publique dans les événements passés, était par l'assistance sans doute de la Providence et les égards cordiaux que j'ai gagnés de Notables de l'Empire auxquels les fruits de mon administration en sont joints. En vérité je vous dis, la population de ce vilayet est très-obéissante, de manière que l'obéissance des montagnards d'entre eux n'est pas moins, de ceux qui habitent les villes et les bourgs, et il n'y a aucun doute que même les insectes du Zeitoun, s'ils ont été laissés à eux-mêmes, ils ne se seraient pas insurgés et troublés la tranquillité.

En tout cas, je répète mes remerciements des signes que vous me témoignez; dont ils témoignent en même temps publiquement et clairement vos remerciements et vos exaltations de la manière que j'ai gouverné.

Enfin, je vous remercie particulièrement puisque cette assemblée était la cause de prier pour notre Souverain commun. Et comme vous n'ignorez pas, Messieurs, que je me dispose de partir pour Constantinople conformément à la Sublime ordre que j'ai reçu.

Puisse faire qu'à mon arrivée j'informerai la Sublime Porte des signes bienveillants que j'ai été constamment l'objet. Dans le cas où j'aurai également aussi la chance d'être favorisé d'une audience de la part de mon auguste Maître, je ne manquerai pas, bien entendu, de présenter les mêmes à notre Souverain commun.

Dans cette attente je présente mes adieux à tous, en vous souhaitant pour toujours la concorde et la sincérité qui ont été si bien établis entre vous et moi, nottamment cette fois-ci. J'ajoute aussi que dans n'importe quel service où je puisse me trouver, je seconderai de mon mieux les soins nécessaires dans l'intérêt du Vilayet d'Alep.

No. 99.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 5.*)

(No. 88.)
Belgrade, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

AS I have already had occasion to notice to your Lordship, the Servo-Albanian frontier has been again, with the return of fine weather, in a more than usually disturbed condition.

Some preliminary skirmishes occurred on Good Friday, the 11th instant, but as it is a time-honoured practice among the Albanians to disturb, if possible, the devotions of their Christian neighbours on all great Church festivals, the matter attracted but little attention, although the alarm at one moment became so general at Vranja that several families precipitately fled to Nisch.

However, on the 16th instant, the Albanians suddenly appeared in force on the side of Prepolac, and drove in the Servian outposts, who fell back on their supports.

Severe fighting ensued, which resulted in the defeat of the Servian troops, who retreated in the direction of Nisch, leaving the important town of Kursumlja in the hands of the Albanians.

No further authentic details are known here up to this time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 100.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 5.*)

(No. 90.)
Belgrade, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN, in obedience to his instructions, the German Chargé d'Affaires presented on the 18th ultimo the letter from his Government accrediting him in this capacity to the Servian Government, and officially recognized on that occasion the independence of the Principality, he verbally informed me that this step had been taken in accord with Her Majesty's Government, an expression which from the tenour of the correspondence transmitted to me by your Lordship I was led fully to share with him.

He has, therefore, expressed to me in the course of conversation some surprise at the prolonged delay which has occurred in the presentation of my credentials, as he believed the object the two Governments had in view in deciding upon the immediate recognition of Servia was to bring pressure to bear on the sister Principality of Roumania in regard to the solution of the Jewish question.

I replied that at the time of receiving my letters of credence I had been directed not to present them until I had received further instructions by telegraph, and that being still unacquainted with the particular reasons which had caused Her Majesty's Government to postpone acting on the agreement arrived at with his Government, I would take the earliest opportunity of calling your Lordship's attention to the subject.

M. Ristich has also repeatedly asked me to explain whether Her Majesty's Government have, in common with all the other Signatory Powers, excepting Italy, definitively recognized the independence of this country.

I stated to his Excellency that the question was one of such a novel and delicate character that I felt considerable hesitation in expressing any decided opinion in the absence of special instructions on the subject. However, I added that, as far as I was able to judge, the independence of the Principality had been *de facto*, though conditionally recognized by Her Majesty's Government on three separate occasions:—1st, by Her Majesty the Queen's gracious reply to Prince Milan's Message, announcing on the 22nd

August last the Proclamation of Independence; 2ndly, by my appointment as Chargé d'Affaires to the Servian Government at the beginning of this year; and, 3rdly, by the fact of Her Majesty's Government having consented to enter, on the 17th ultimo, into a Treaty arrangement with Servia, but that it had not yet been formally and definitively recognized, for my appointment as Chargé d'Affaires to the Servian Government was only of a temporary nature, and to some extent informal, since it had not been, as far as I was aware, officially gazetted. His Excellency does not, I am sorry to own, seem quite to understand the distinction I have attempted to draw between *de facto* though conditional, and definitive recognition, as he seizes every possible opportunity of reverting to the subject.

The French Minister has, at the same time, expressed his regret that, in view of the possibility of joint negotiations, Her Majesty's Government have not decided upon definitively recognizing the independence of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 101.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 5.*)

(No. 93.)
Belgrade, April 20, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83 of the 5th instant, in which I ventured to point out the serious complications to be apprehended were Austria-Hungary to decide upon advancing on Novi-Bazar through the territory of this Principality, I have much pleasure in acquainting your Lordship that, thanks to the kind offices of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, the uneasiness which was felt on this score has happily ceased for the time being.

By Count Andrassy's directions, transmitted by telegraph, the Austro-Hungarian Minister here has officially assured M. Ristich that, so far, his Government have not entertained any intention of occupying Novi-Bazar, and, consequently, of applying for permission to march their troops through Servian territory.

M. Ristich expressed to me his gratitude for the assurances he had received from the Imperial Government. He considered them highly satisfactory, so far as they went; although they were not quite so explicit with regard to the future as he would have desired.

He remarked that, besides the difficulties the Servian population would inevitably raise to the passage of the Imperial forces through their territory, it would likewise, in case of resistance on the part of the people of the Pashalik of Novi-Bazar, expose the Principality to the serious risk of seeing a struggle in which it had no direct interest carried on within its own borders; since any attempt of the Imperial troops to advance beyond them would be opposed from the very first. He added that even so his Government has already incurred much ill-will for consenting to the conveyance through Servia of supplies of all sorts, amounting, as I have ascertained, to upwards of 5,000 tons, for the use of the army of occupation in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 102.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 5.*)

(No. 95.)
Belgrade, April 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE read with extreme interest Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's series of despatches on the relations existing between Servia and Bulgaria, or more properly speaking between the Servians and the Bulgarians, transmitted to me in your Lordship's despatches Nos. 24 and 32 of the 20th ultimo and 9th instant respectively. I was certainly not prepared to hear, from so impartial an observer, that the state of public feeling, amongst all classes of Bulgarians, was so bitterly hostile towards the Servian people and their Ruler. As between neighbours in general there exists, I am aware, a certain amount of animosity engendered by conflicting interests, by petty jealousies, and possibly also by too intimate a knowledge of each other's national

defects of character, but in many other respects I am constrained to take exception to Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's rather sweeping assertions.

For years before the breaking out of the late Russo-Turkish war, Belgrade was the focus of agitation against the Ottoman rule in Bulgaria, and the asylum of many of the most compromised among the leaders of that movement. Until quite recently there was a numerous and influential Bulgarian colony in Belgrade, the members of which are still in constant communication with their friends here, and actively engaged in advocating a union between the two Principalities. Their chances of ultimate success may be of the very faintest, but the fact that such views are entertained by at least a section of the Bulgarian population seems to be beyond doubt.

Those who hold these opinions maintain that, united, the two Principalities would form a southern Slav State, sufficiently homogeneous and powerful to throw off, in the first instance, the controlling influence of Russia on the one side, and of Austria-Hungary on the other, and eventually to group around them the other Slav populations of the Balkan Peninsula, whilst, disunited, the one will continue to remain dependent on the protection of the former Power, and a mere tool in its hands, and the other will, in all likelihood, end by being absorbed by the latter Power.

They also affirm that the primitive, but nevertheless efficient, civil and military administration possessed by the elder of the two Principalities would be of invaluable assistance to the younger in organizing its national institutions, without being compelled to have recourse to foreigners for the purpose.

The great bar to the realization of any such scheme lies far more, I take it, in the determined opposition it would encounter at the hands of the two neighbouring Empires, and in the little consideration in which Prince Milan is personally held at home and abroad, than in any deep-rooted feeling of antipathy between the two peoples, who spring from the same stock, and speak very much the same language.

In support of this assertion I have only to cite the well-known fact that not a few Bulgarians were to be found in the ranks of the Servian army during the late hostilities, whilst the so-called Bulgarian Legion, organized by the Russians, was largely composed of Servians.

A certain number of Bulgarians attended the solemn requiem held some time back at Nisch, but whether they were influential men or not, or whence they came, is a question I am not in a position to answer. There is, however, no doubt Mr. Consul-General Palgrave is quite correct in stating that not a single member of the Servian Skuptchina visited Sophia during the Christmas holidays, as I had been erroneously led to believe.

How far the inhabitants of the villages on Bulgarian territory temporarily occupied by Servian troops may be sincere in the desire they have expressed to be annexed to Servia, I have no means of ascertaining. I have often had occasion to touch upon this subject in conversation with M. Ristich, as in my opinion the continued presence of the Servian troops in these villages constitutes a flagrant violation of Article XLI of the Treaty of Berlin for which there is no adequate excuse.

His Excellency has, in reply, assured me they will be withdrawn the moment the frontier has been marked out by the Servian Boundary Commission. The Bulgarian inhabitants would, however, he says, much prefer being incorporated in Servia, not from any sentimental motives, but simply because in Servia the administration is, comparatively speaking, better than in Bulgaria, and the taxation infinitely lighter. Were the officials and the troops on either side to be withdrawn respectively to Nisch and to Sophia, and the question put to the vote of the whole population, he firmly believes they would almost unanimously cast in their lot with the Principality.

The Russian Minister here himself admits that the Servian troops and officials have kept within the limits assigned to them at the time of the armistice. What he complains of is the persistent refusal of the Government to withdraw them from the territory they still occupy beyond the line of frontier conceded to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin.

The dispute at Koula, or rather Veliki Tzvor, is one of very old standing, and of a purely local character. The Servian peasants of this village have long owned certain lands on the Bulgarian side of the boundary, and they consequently, as there is every reason to believe, took advantage of the confusion consequent on the war to move the stakes marking the line of frontier further eastward, with the object of making it appear as if these fields were within their own territory. Their Bulgarian neighbours, with whom they have constantly been in feud, naturally resented the proceeding, and appealed to the Russian authorities, but the Russian Minister informs me the matter is now in a fair way of adjustment.

The peasants throughout the greater part of the Principality, and especially in the neighbourhood of the frontier, always go about armed, and consequently the appearance of armed Servians on Bulgarian territory has not the same import which might be attributed, in more favoured regions, to the presence of armed men, besides, they are only formidable in appearance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 103.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 21, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General White's despatch No. 33 of the 9th instant, I regret to own I am unable to see how he can have persuaded himself that, in regard to the progress made in bringing the Jewish emancipation question to a satisfactory settlement, Roumania has now arrived at the same stage as Servia.

In Servia the question, which presents no difficulties whatever, has been fully discussed in Committee, and unanimously passed by two successive Skuptchinas, and now only awaits the formal sanction of the Extraordinary Skuptchina; a simple majority being all that is requisite for the purpose in the latter, whereas in its two previous stages a majority of three-quarters of the Legislature was necessary.

In Roumania, for weighty reasons, the question meets with the most determined opposition, and all that has yet been done to bring it to a solution in the sense desired by the Great Powers is to obtain with extreme difficulty the consent of the Chambers tacitly to admit the necessity of revising an Article in the National Constitution indirectly referring to it, the advocates of the measure not even daring to insert in the preamble to the Bill a statement of the grounds which have induced them to bring it forward.

Consequently, in this Principality the measure has, after full consideration, been twice unanimously voted by the National Parliament, the final issue being a foregone conclusion; whilst in the sister Principality it has not yet passed the preliminary stage recognizing the necessity of submitting it to discussion, according to the forms prescribed by the National Constitution, the final issue being still scarcely more than a mere matter of conjecture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 104.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 21, 1879.*

SINCE my last despatch No. 88 of the 18th instant, reporting an Albanian incursion into Servian territory, matters have remained much in the same state. It is officially given out that the invading force numbers about 1,000 well-armed men under evidently able leaders.

They advanced in two bodies by separate roads, along the Banjska and the Kastainiene Rivers, converging on Kursumlija, which they attacked, but only partially succeeded in occupying, owing to the brilliant defence made by the small Servian garrison of 200 men, who as a last resource blew up their own powder magazine. The explosion so shook the nerves of the assailants that they retired to the fortified heights of Samakoff, where they are still encamped awaiting the attack of the Servians.

The latter are rapidly collecting in the neighbourhood a large force of sixteen battalions, four of regulars and the rest of militia, supported by several batteries of artillery, with the object of surrounding and storming the heights occupied by the invaders.

The latter are accused of having sacked all the villages they passed through, murdering the inhabitants, and committing every sort of atrocity, amongst others that of roasting on an improvised spit an unfortunate wounded Servian soldier who fell into their hands.

These reports are no doubt exaggerated, as the country the Albanians traversed has remained by most accounts almost entirely deserted since they were originally driven out of it by the Servians. At the same time it must be admitted that, in retaliation for the wrongs inflicted on them, they are not likely to have shown much mercy to any prisoners they may have succeeded in capturing.

The Servian Government has addressed by telegram a strongly-worded remonstrance to the Porte, charging the Turkish civil and military authorities with having permitted, if not connived at, the incursion, and holding it responsible for all the losses, &c., which this violation of its territory may entail on the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 105.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April* 24, 1879.

I AM happy to be able to report that the Albanians who had penetrated into Servia have been finally driven back across the frontier, and, with the assistance of the Ottoman troops, forced to relinquish most of the cattle and other booty they had collected, which are to be forthwith restored to the rightful owners by the Turkish authorities.

According to official statements a great deal of desultory fighting took place, in which the Albanians suffered very severely, whilst the Servian losses were comparatively light. This appears somewhat strange, considering the Albanians, who were armed with breech-loaders, held very formidable positions, and I am, therefore, inclined to believe they must have, in a great measure, retired from these positions of their own accord in the presence of the immensely superior forces brought against them, and been merely followed up in their retreat towards their own territory.

M. Ristich has addressed himself to me in warm terms of gratitude for the very efficient, though somewhat tardy, co-operation of the Turkish troops acting under the orders of Osman Noury Pasha, of Kossovo, in recapturing the booty the Albanians were carrying off with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 106.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 22, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 66 of the 12th instant, on the subject of the proposal that for sanitary purposes the town of Sulina should be excluded from the line of march of the Russian troops returning home from Turkey, about which the Italian Ambassador had addressed a note on the 28th March last, I have the honour to report as follows:—

This proposal had found favour with the Roumanian Government, and it appears also with some members of the Danubian Commission, but no final decision had been arrived at, whilst in the meantime the sanitary measures previously adopted have been everywhere relaxed owing to the diminution of the apprehensions about the plague, and it is not at all likely that the proposal here referred to will be pressed any longer on the attention of the Powers, or that any agreement between them could be come to in time to prevent any Russian detachments taking the road by Sulina.

There is every probability that the last of these have taken that direction, and that no others will follow unless the occupation of Bulgaria were prolonged beyond what is anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 107.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

No. 123.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 26, 1879.

I HAVE had conversations within the last few days with some of the leading members of the Jewish community in this capital, and from what I can gather I see that these gentlemen are fully alive to the difficulties attending the settlement of the question in which they are interested, and that, knowing as they do the condition of their kinsmen in Moldavia, they are quite prepared to see only a limited number of these admitted to the full enjoyment of political rights.

They appear to consider that this will suffice to remove permanently the barrier which has hitherto proved such an insurmountable obstacle to their emancipation in this country, provided their admission to full civil rights is enacted at the same time.

On the latter point the foreign Jews, who are so numerous in Roumania, are deeply interested, and those who are under Austro-Hungarian protection, and constitute the largest part of them, have recently sent a deputation to Count Hoyos to express themselves in that sense, adding that for their part they had no desire to acquire Roumanian nationality.

The last paragraph of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin appears to have met most completely this part of the question, and I have no reason to suppose that the Roumanian Government deny their solemn obligations under this head.

By the existing Commercial Treaties the right of owning houses in towns has been conceded to foreign Jews, but real estates out of towns cannot be held by them under the Law of the 19th August, 1864.

This restriction can be easily repealed by ordinary legislation, and does not require a special Assembly to pass it as it does in Servia, where a similar prohibition was inserted as an explanatory note at the end of the Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 108.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Lascar Catargi, who has been Roumanian Political Agent in Servia, has been appointed as Minister Resident in that country by Prince Charles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 109.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 28, 1879.

THIS Government naturally was desirous to open diplomatic relations with different Courts of Europe, and to communicate to them in a proper form the independence of Roumania.

For that purpose special Missions were to be sent to different capitals, and amongst others M. Callimaki Catargi, from Paris, was to proceed to Brussels, and another gentleman was to go to Madrid.

The Spanish Ambassador at Paris appears to have availed himself of some excuse to obtain a postponement in the despatch of the projected Mission, and Baron Solvyns has explained to your Lordship on the 7th March the views of his Government with regard to its relations with Roumania.

The Belgian Government has a Commercial Treaty with this country, which has been ready for signature these many months, and which the trading interests of that country are desirous to see completed.

It is therefore natural that M. Frère Orban is even more desirous than he cares to admit to your Lordship to forestal us in establishing favourable commercial relations, as these can only follow diplomatic ones, with Roumania.

This Court has been more successful in the step it has taken with regard to those of Sweden and Denmark; Prince Brancovano, the descendant of an old family, was entrusted with these two missions, and has just returned with an announcement that the Kings of the two Scandinavian countries will probably send their Ministers at Vienna to Bucharest shortly to bring complimentary replies from their Sovereign to Prince Charles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 110.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 129. Very Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April 29, 1879.*

INFORMATION received from different sources confirms the Roumanian Ministers in the opinion that the disposition of the German Chancellor towards them, and his Highness' hesitation to enter into regular diplomatic relations with their Court, is prompted by other motives than those generally assigned to his attitude with regard to Roumania.

The Prince Chancellor hardly conceals the interest he takes in a scheme drawn up by the Berlin bankers for the purpose of converting the present Roumanian railway scrip into other kinds of debentures, a scheme which has not as yet received the approbation of this Government, and which is not at all likely to prove acceptable in its present form.

I cannot, however, conceal from your Lordship to what an extent these special interests, pursued from Berlin under the cover of non-recognition, contribute to unsettle the minds of people here, and even throw discredit on the humanitarian and international objects that we are supposed to be pursuing in union with Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 111.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 67. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, April 24, 1879.*

YESTERDAY evening I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship to the following effect: That the clergy and their partizans are making serious efforts to have the Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff, proposed and elected Prince of Bulgaria; that the proposal would probably be so made as to take the Assembly by surprise; and that there might be a real danger of its succeeding. I subjoined that a public and official notification of the declaration made, or said to have been made, by the Russian Emperor, prohibiting the election of any Russian subject to the dignity in question, would be singularly opportune, perhaps indeed absolutely necessary, to frustrate the intended attempt; adding that the interval of time left for taking any such step was very short.

So many considerations render the attempt of electing Prince Dondoukoff for the Bulgarian Principality, or his acceptance of it, intrinsically improbable, that it was not till after carefully weighing the value of the evidence I had received that I concluded it to be my duty to inform your Lordship. Nor even now do I feel absolutely certain of the correctness of the statement. For greater security I have privately conferred with my Austrian colleague on the subject, but he was unable to supply any additional information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 112.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 68. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, April 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a despatch sent by Sir H. Drummond Wolff, marked No. 76, regarding Russian proceedings in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 56, April 3, 1879.

Regarding the militia organization, as carried out by the Russian Provisional Government in Bulgaria, I had the honour to supply complete information to your Lordship in my despatch No. 27, Political, of December 28, 1878, with its inclosure. I have now the honour to supplement the same by a Permissive Ordinance for Drill, published by the Provisional Government of Bulgaria, at or about the time of its administrative separation from that of Eastern Roumelia.

This Ordinance principally regards the recruits of the year for the regular militia service, though permitting the presence of others at drill and rifle exercise. It is, however, my duty to state that the number of those, the regular recruits excepted, who have taken advantage of this permission, has been extremely small in most places; in some, the Tirnovo districts for instance, absolutely *nil*.

No gymnastic societies or similar associations exist or have been formed in Bulgaria. Where the military preparations are exactly limited to those which I have had the honour of stating to your Lordship, anything beyond these must be understood of Eastern Roumelia, a district the affairs of which are often improperly confounded by inaccurate reporters or writers with those of Bulgaria. In this latter there are no drilling and other warlike preparations, whether on the road between Tirnovo and Rustchuk or elsewhere, the Kustendil and Dubnitza districts on the Macedonia frontier, I have reason to believe, excepted, beyond those specified in my present and previous despatches, and regarding Bulgaria and its inhabitants exclusively of all others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Translation of a Notice for Voluntary Drill throughout Bulgaria, published at Sofia at the beginning of February 1879.

FOR the voluntary drill exercise of such inhabitants of Bulgaria as will be called on for military duty during the present year 1879, in the rudiments of military service and in rifle practice.

1. For the readier organization of the militia in Bulgaria, and that the inhabitants may the better learn the first principles of military service, in which they are as yet wholly inexperienced, such youths who, during the present year, attain the age of twenty, and will be called on for service this same year, as also any volunteers not under seventeen years of age, are hereby invited, according to the special Regulations on this subject, to a short period of preparatory drill and rifle practice, to be held at the military depôts now in course of establishment in connection with the battalions and otherwise, according to section 15.

2. General and special depôts are established in connection with each infantry battalion at Sofia, Plevna, Tirnovo, and Shumlah.

3-4. The drill lasts for two weeks, that is, from the 1st to the 15th of each month, with rifle practice. Neither are obligatory, those only who desire them being invited, as stated in section 1, nor is the duration of time obligatory, every one being free to return home whenever he pleases.

5. Those who attend the drill must find themselves in travelling and board expenses; but lodging will be provided by the municipalities.

6. As considerable disproportion may occur between the numbers of the youths assembled for drill at the general depôts, and as not more than 300 at a time can go through their drill at a battalion depôt, a list of the districts belonging to each depôt is subjoined, section 15.

7. Where the number is small, the drill may be protracted beyond the regular period for such as desire it.

8. Those who leave their homes for drill should form themselves into bands at one

or more villages, and choose among themselves a leader for the road and for the exercise, who will also keep the names of all with him on a special list.

Note.—Forms of such lists are supplied by the War Department to all the district Governors for distribution by them among the Municipal Governors, who will in their turn distribute them among the leaders of the bands.

9. Those who desire to pass drill for the regular period must be at the appointed station a day before the beginning of the exercise.

10. On the arrival of a band at its proper station, its leader has to present himself before the Local Military Governor, by whom he is informed of the exact time and place of meeting, and is directed to the drill officer. He then, with his band, takes up the quarters assigned by the Municipality.

11. The leader, on presenting himself with his band before the drill officer, has to deliver the list containing the names of his companions.

12. Those engaged in rifle practice must be on the ground every day at the appointed time, and must be under the orders of the instructors and other officers, according to the Military Code.

13. Any who may be noted for misconduct on the road or during drill forfeit their right to be instructed.

14. For the better avoidance of difficulties or misunderstandings, the Municipality of every town is bound to explain to the inhabitants of its neighbourhood and dependance the true meaning of all these Articles, which have been issued solely in order to facilitate matters for recruits taken for service.

15. The districts are arranged in groups belonging to the several depôts as follows:—

Hereafter the list of localities, assigning five districts to Sofia, six to Tirnovo, six to Plevna, two to Shumla, besides four to Varna, three to Widdin, two to Vracha, and two to Lom Palanka, being thirty in all.

No. 113.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, April 25, 1879.

I TOOK occasion in a recent conversation with Prince Gortchacow to allude to Mr. Palgrave's report of the intention of the Bulgarian clergy to promote the election of the Russian Commissary as Prince of Bulgaria. His Highness ridiculed the idea, and added that the Imperial Government had advised the Bulgarian people to choose some one who would be acceptable to the Powers.

The Prussian Minister here tells me that the Russian Government is inclined to favour the candidature of Prince Battenberg.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 114.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, April 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which has been addressed to me by Baron Jomini in reference to Major Clarke and the Delimitation Commission on the Asiatic frontier of Turkey.

In reply, I have acquainted Baron Jomini with the very different version given by Major Clarke of the proceedings referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Baron Jomini to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord,

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Avril*, 1879.

NOUS venons d'être informés par le Prince Labanoff d'une difficulté suscitée par Mr. Clarke, le Délégué Anglais pour la délimitation en Asie Mineure, et qui arrête les travaux de la Commission. L'accord était déjà complet entre notre Délégué et le Délégué Turc sur la ligne frontière depuis la Mer Noire jusqu'à un point à l'ouest de Karaourgan. D'après ce dont nous étions convenus avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, c'est depuis Karaourgan que devait commencer la participation du Délégué Anglais. Deux séances ont eu lieu sans résultat parce que Mr. Clarke réclame le droit qui ne lui appartient pas de déterminer le point à l'ouest de Karaourgan, déjà fixé d'un commun accord par notre Délégué et celui de la Porte. Vu l'urgence de terminer la délimitation, Prince Labanoff exprime le vœu que Mr. Clarke reçoive de Londres l'ordre de ne point insister sur cette prétention qui arrête les travaux.

Nous en informons M. Bartholomei par le télégraphe. Votre Excellence voudra peut-être aussi appuyer ce vœu par voie télégraphique auprès du Marquis de Salisbury.

Cet incident vint confirmer ce que nous disions hier du peu de confiance qu'on peut accorder aux décisions par les Commissions. Toutefois, les assurances si satisfaisantes que votre Excellence a bien voulu donner au Prince Chancelier sur l'esprit qui présiderait aux instructions du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à ses Commissaires dans les Balkans, nous autorise à espérer que Mr. Clarke recevra aussi des instructions inspirées du même esprit.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JOMINI.

No. 115.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 145.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, April 25, 1879.

PRINCE GORTCHACOW informed me yesterday that General Obreskoff starts for Constantinople with a friendly letter from the Emperor to the Sultan.

After its delivery he is instructed to repair to Eastern Roumelia for the purpose of exhorting its Christian inhabitants, in the Emperor's name, loyally to acquiesce in the new régime. An Imperial Proclamation in the same sense will also be issued.

M. de Giers tells me that General Obreskoff has been selected for this mission for the very reason that he is known to belong to the patriotic school. When, therefore, it is seen that a personage with such opinions counsels submission, none of the Russian authorities now conducting affairs in the Balkan Peninsula will any longer doubt the Emperor's real intention.

Language such as this coming from a Minister of an autocratic Government is certainly singular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 116.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1879.

IN a previous telegram I have already informed your Lordship that I had made a strong representation to M. de Giers on the inconveniences likely to result from the mobilization of the Gymnastic Societies. I also alluded to the misgivings naturally aroused in the minds of every one by the recent extensive distribution of arms to the Roumelian population on the part of the local Russian Administration in the province.

M. de Giers informed me that the Imperial Government had countermanded the

order for the mobilization of the Gymnastic Societies, and that they had received from General Stolipine a letter excusing himself for the contemplation of such an idea.

With regard to the distribution of arms, M. de Giers admitted the fact, but added that it was merely in view of enabling the Christian population to defend their homes and villages from outrage and attack, and that as a proof that the Russian Government did not contemplate placing the Roumeliots in a position to withstand the legitimate exercise of the Porte's authority, they had taken especial care that no artillery should pass into their possession.

Founding myself upon the telegram recently forwarded to this Embassy from Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, reporting the unsatisfactory language held by General Stolipine to Colonel Vitalis, the increased distribution of arms, the countenance still shown to the Gymnastic Societies, and the gift of a fresh battery of artillery to the Roumeliot population, I drew Baron Jomini's attention to the extraordinary discrepancy between the assurances I had received from him, from M. de Giers, from Prince Gortchacow, and from the Emperor himself, and the conduct of the Russian agents in the Balkan Peninsula, especially referring to the commentary upon M. de Giers' language afforded by this recent present of artillery.

Baron Jomini informed me that the Emperor had not only forbidden the mobilization of the Gymnastic Societies, but had commanded their dissolution.

He did not attempt to defend the presentation of the guns, and he promised at once to communicate with Livadia upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 117.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1879.

WITH regard to your Lordship's telegram instructing me to inquire whether it would be agreeable to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the European Commission should accompany and advise Aleko Pasha on his assuming the government of East Roumelia, I have the honour to state that Baron Jomini has informed me that Prince Labanoff is of opinion that Aleko Pasha had better enter upon his functions unaccompanied by the Commission; that the Commission would be an object of suspicion to the Roumelian population, and that it is desirable that the new Governor-General should have the appearance of assuming office under the auspices of the present Russian Administration. In fact, Baron Jomini hinted that it would be the wish of this Government that the Russian local Administration in Eastern Roumelia, as at present constituted, should be continued for some time longer, in the same way as the Russian "personnel" of the militia was to be temporarily retained. In reply, I told Baron Jomini that, in the absence of all local information, I would not presume to offer an opinion upon this proposition, but that of one thing I was certain, namely, that the recent evidences we had received of the manifest disobedience of the Russian authorities in the Balkan Peninsula to the behests of their Emperor, and their obvious endeavours to impede the introduction of the new régime required by the Treaty of Berlin, was so calculated to destroy the confidence of the European Governments in their loyalty and good faith, as to render it very doubtful whether this new suggestion of Gortchacow's would be favourably regarded either in London or anywhere else.

Had the acts of the authorities in Roumelia corresponded with what I was convinced were the loyal and conciliatory intentions of the Government at St. Petersburgh, the matter might have come to be regarded in a very different light, but that, under the present circumstances, he must feel what impediments had been thrown in the way of the arrangement now desired by the Russian Government by their own agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 118.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, April 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to state that I called upon M. de Giers in the early part of last week for the purpose of discussing with him the terms of his letter of the 17th April, inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 125 of the 19th instant.

I pointed out to him that he had accompanied his acceptance of the "majority" principle by so ambiguous a qualification as to nullify its effect, and I strongly urged him to leave the Delimitation Commission at liberty to determine the Balkan frontier according to their own appreciation of the necessities of the case, without occasioning endless delay by referring every disputed point back to the European Cabinets. The Balkan line, I added, had been fixed upon by Europe for the purpose of securing a defensible frontier to Turkey. It was this consideration which should principally weigh with the Commissioners, and the elements of such a problem could only be properly appreciated by persons on the spot.

M. de Giers then referred to the Russian proposal to take the watershed as a line of demarcation.

I replied that I was not aware that your Lordship would be prepared to accept such a suggestion, and that even if you were, it was evident that, with the view of giving Turkey a defensible frontier, there would be places where the watershed would have to be overstepped to the northwards.

In reference to the second contention contained in M. de Giers' letter, namely, that the Turkish troops being precluded by the Treaty of Berlin from establishing themselves at any points inhabited by Roumeliots, the Commission should be instructed to determine the spots where the garrisons of the Porte were to be located, I observed that the Treaty of Berlin merely said that the Turkish troops were not to be quartered in the houses of the inhabitants, and that it was solely within the competence of the sovereign Power of the country to determine the defensive positions that it might be desirable to occupy.

M. de Giers did not dispute this view, but explained that, inasmuch as the Turkish soldiery were precluded from advancing into the interior of the province, it might be advisable to indicate a zone running parallel with the frontier, beyond which, to the southward, it should not be competent for them to spread.

I concluded by asking M. de Giers whether some such formula as the following might not be agreed upon as an instruction to the Delimitation Commission: "It shall be an instruction to the Delimitation Commission to take the watershed as their chief guide in laying off the line of demarcation between Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, except where deviations may be necessary to secure a defensible frontier to Turkey according to the terms of the Treaty, such deviations to be determined by the majority of the Commission."

M. de Giers seemed favourably impressed with this suggestion, but asked me whether such words as "défense passive" might not be introduced. I replied that such a phrase seemed very awkward, and almost a "non-sens," and that "défensible" conveyed a perfectly distinct notion.

Having received your Lordship's telegram authorizing me to propose the foregoing formula to the Russian Government in a slightly amended form, and at the same time to announce to them that, if it were adopted as it stood, Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to agree to their proposal about the watershed, I again discussed the matter at great length with M. de Giers, who intimated to me in leaving that he himself was favourably disposed to the arrangement, but that he would have to consult General Milutine before giving a positive answer. Late at night his answer, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, reached my hands, in which it is intimated that while the Russian Government would be prepared to adopt your proposed "instruction," they would desire that if a question should arise in the Commission as to whether any proposed "deviation" to the northward seemed to possess an "aggressive" rather than a "defensive" character, there should be a reference to the Cabinets.

As M. de Giers was starting early next morning with the Emperor for Livadia, I was forced to content myself with replying to this communication by a private letter, in which I pointed out that this new reserve as completely nullified the "majority" principle as did his previous proposition; that it would give the Russian Commissioner the power of denouncing every deviation to the north as possessed of an aggressive

character, and of indefinitely retarding the work of delimitation, and that it was rather unreasonable, after the manifest proofs Her Majesty's Government had shown of its desire to meet the views of Russia in every possible way, that the Imperial Government should exhibit such an invincible repugnance to confide these matters to the good faith, discrimination, and local knowledge of a European Commission.

I subsequently told Prince Gortchacow that, if he desired the suggestions contained in M. de Giers' last letter to me to be communicated to your Lordship, M. Bartholomei would be the fittest channel through which they could be conveyed, as I should hesitate to transmit to your Lordship propositions so directly antagonistic to the views you had already expressed.

Last Tuesday, the 22nd instant, Prince Gortchacow again reverted to your proposed instruction, and intimated that the Russian Government would be prepared to accept the "majority" principle absolutely if the following words were inserted into the formula I had presented:—

"It shall be strictly prescribed to the Commission that the northern deviations shall only take place in view of the defence of Turkey, and not to open the valleys giving access to Bulgaria."

I at once observed that it was scarcely possible for any deviation to pass beyond the watershed without opening the valley beyond.

Prince Gortchacow replied, "That is not what we mean. We want to guard against the *versants septentrionales* being taken from Bulgaria."

I replied that, were Turkey to make any unreasonable claim in the sense he indicated, the eventual arbitrament would lie with the representatives in the Commission of perfectly disinterested Powers, of France, of Germany, of Italy; and that it was not to be imagined that they would countenance any demand which might be out of harmony with the spirit of the Treaty, and that it was in the conviction of the fairness and impartiality of the tribunal that we did not hesitate to press the Russian Government to abide by its decisions. Prince Gortchacow then asked me to communicate this new suggestion to you. I said I would do so upon the understanding that it differed from M. de Giers' previous proposal in the following respects, namely, that, whereas M. de Giers specifically indicated certain cases to which the "majority" principle would not be applicable, his Highness seemed content with giving an instruction to the Commission, emphasizing, indeed, the defensive character to be given to the frontier, but leaving the interpretation and application of that instruction to the good faith and judgment of the majority of its members.

Though personally inclined to draw the foregoing distinction between M. de Giers' and Prince Gortchacow's proposals, and, consequently, to consider the latter as the least unacceptable of the two, it is obviously open to so many objections that I hardly expected it would have received your Lordship's assent, nor did I feel justified in recommending it to your favourable consideration.

Last Monday evening, having received your Lordship's telegraphic reply No. 52, I again waited upon Prince Gortchacow, and informed him that Her Majesty's Government failed to see that his Highness' last suggestion really altered the case, and that the qualifications and reserves insisted upon by the Russian Government were so antagonistic to the "majority" principle we had contended for, that I feared it would be useless to continue the discussion; that, as the Russian Government had thus refused to accept the condition upon which your Lordship had agreed to the watershed as the leading line of demarcation, that part of the arrangement must also be considered as having fallen through; that we should have, therefore, to be guided by the actual words of the Treaty of Berlin, and that Her Majesty's Commissioner would be instructed accordingly.

I further called his Highness' attention, though in very conciliatory terms, to the fact that, inasmuch as our qualified consent to the modifications he had proposed to the original scheme suggested by your Lordship after the "mixed occupation" was abandoned had been made contingent on the Russian Government accepting the "majority" principle in the terms we had submitted, and that principle having been rejected, he must now consider our assent to those modifications as withdrawn.

I further hinted that, as the abandonment of the "majority" principle deprived us of all security for the completion of the delimitation within any reasonable term, we could not promise to urge the Porte to keep its garrisons out of the Balkans for any very lengthy period, and that the Commission itself might require the presence of a Turkish contingent for its protection as soon as the Russian evacuation should be completed.

In a subsequent conversation I had with Baron Jomini I insisted still more

strongly on these latter considerations, and pointed out to him how deplorable it was that a lengthy negotiation, during the course of which England and Russia had found themselves able to come to so close an agreement upon so many important questions, should be rendered nugatory by a dissidence of opinion upon the single point which remained to be settled between us.

Baron Jomini agreed in this view, and stated that, in his private opinion, which he had communicated to M. de Giers, the Russian Government would do well to agree to the "majority" principle upon the following terms, namely, if there should arise a dispute in the Commission upon any matter of very grave importance, that, before coming to a final decision upon it, the several Commissioners should have an opportunity of communicating with their respective Governments, after which the vote should be taken, and the opinion of the majority should prevail, notwithstanding the continued opposition of individual Cabinets.

I cannot but deeply regret that M. de Giers' departure for Livadia should have cut short my negotiations with him. Had it not been for this unfortunate circumstance, I feel certain we should have arrived at a conclusion satisfactory to your Lordship.

Even now I have some hopes that an understanding may be reached in the sense desired by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 118.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Réservée.)
My Lord,

Le $\frac{11}{23}$ *Avril*, 1879.

EN réponse à la communication confidentielle que vous avez bien voulu me faire ce matin je me suis empressé d'en conférer avec M. le Ministre de la Guerre.

Tous les deux nous constatons avec plaisir que nous sommes tout près d'une entente avec vous sur cette interminable question des Balkans.

Afin de sortir de l'impasse il nous semble aussi préférable d'abandonner la terminologie spécialement militaire en disant que la ligne frontière ne pourra dépasser la séparation des eaux que là ou les besoins purement défensifs de cette ligne pour la Turquie l'exigeront; mais si un doute s'élevait sur le caractère offensif ou défensif d'une position, les délégués pourraient, selon nous, en référer à leurs Gouvernements. Ce principe nous semble entièrement conforme à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin, et nous espérons que vous l'accepterez. Excusez la hâte avec laquelle je vous écris ces lignes, dont je vais rendre compte au Prince Chancelier, et agréez mes hommages bien sincères.

(Signé) GIERS.

No. 119.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord,

Rome, April 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I called upon M. Depretis shortly after my return to Rome from Baveno yesterday afternoon.

After some general observations, I asked M. Depretis if he had received my note of the 20th instant (a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 169 of the 20th instant), and whether he was satisfied with its contents. His Excellency replied
had learnt with satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government had stated to the G
ment of Russia that they could consent to no modification of the Treaty of Berlin; and it was also a pleasure to him to be assured that Her Majesty's Government reciprocated the wish which he had already expressed, that in all matters which concern the Balkan Peninsula, Italy and England should act heartily together. He agreed in your Lordship's views, that the proposal for prolonging the Commission for one year, and making the exercise of the power of the Vali dependent upon the sanction of the majority of the Commission, at least in so far as the right to call Turkish troops into the interior was concerned, might be accepted without derogating from the Treaty of Berlin.

I then read to his Excellency your Lordship's telegram, dated 11·50 A.M. yesterday

morning, relative to a proposal of the Russian Government, that in order to give the Delimitation Commission the fullest possible advantage from the presence of a Russian escort, its labours ought to be finished as soon as possible, and naming the 13th July for their termination.

I understood from his Excellency that the Russian Ambassador had made a similar communication to him, and that he had replied that the Italian Commissioner had long since been instructed to hasten the works of the Commission as much as possible, and that he would repeat these instructions in informing him of the communication now made by the Russian Government, but—M. Depretis stated that he added—the Italian Government did not feel competent to pronounce a judgment as to the possibility of terminating the labours of the Commission by any particular day.

Count Tornielli, whom I afterwards saw, reminded me, in speaking on this subject, that so anxious had the Italian Government been from the very beginning that the Commission should proceed as rapidly as possible with their duties, that they had instructed their Delegate not to allow any differences on particular points to interrupt the labours of the Commission, but to continue proceeding with their task until it was accomplished, leaving aside these contested points for subsequent adjustment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 120.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 178. Most Confidential.)
Rome, April 25, 1879.

My Lord,

AS M. Depretis in speaking, as reported in my despatch No. 177, Confidential, of this date, respecting his desire for an intimate understanding with England, repeated more than once rather pointedly that he could not put the same confidence in the policy of France, I thought it right to ask his Excellency if he had any grounds for mistrusting France.

His reply was, that he could not say he had anything positive to arouse his suspicions, but at the same time he did not feel quite at his ease as to what the French Government might possibly be contemplating.

If, for instance, his Excellency said, the French Government should have any designs upon Tunis, it would, of course, be understood that Italy could not be indifferent to their being carried out.

On the other hand, he was convinced that there was nothing to fear from the policy of England in the Mediterranean or the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 121.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 179.)
Rome, April 25, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the course of my conversation with M. Depretis yesterday, I referred to the Greco-Turkish Frontier question, asking his Excellency in what position it now stood, and whether, as I had been led to understand, he had received a communication from the French Government upon the subject.

M. Depretis replied that, it having been reported in one of the French papers (the "Republique Française" I think he said) that the French Government had drawn up a fresh proposal for the frontier, and that it had been communicated to the Powers, he had caused inquiries to be made by the Italian Ambassador in Paris, and the answer which General Cialdini received was that the French Government was engaged in considering this matter, but that as yet they were not prepared with any proposal.

In speaking of the arrangements to be made, M. Depretis said that his wish was that Greece should acquire a proper addition to her territory, but that it would be doing Greece no service if the territory ceded to her should prove, by reason of the hostility of the population, a source of weakness instead of strength to her.

His Excellency stated in a very marked manner that it was not at all out of a distrust of the policy of Austria that he was opposed to annexing to Greece a population which would, as far as his information enabled him to form an opinion, be certain to be a cause of trouble to her; on the contrary, he was bound to say that he was satisfied by the declarations of the Austrian Government in regard to their intention to adhere strictly to the arrangements of the Treaty of Berlin. His views, therefore, his Excellency said, were solely dictated by a desire for the welfare of the Greek Kingdom itself, and for the promotion of future good relations between Greece and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 122.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 180 A.)
Rome, April 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that upon my acquainting M. Depretis with the appointment of Mr. Gould as Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade, and t statement he had been instructed to make on delivering his credentials, as recorded in your Lordship's telegram No. 11 of the 21st instant, M. Depretis inquired whether Her Majesty's Government were not of opinion that the time had now come when the Roumanian Government should also be recognized in the same formal manner. It appeared to him, he said, that the two Governments now stand in analogous positions as regards the fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and he said that if Her Majesty's Government would appoint a Minister to Bucharest, the Italian Government would be prepared to do so likewise without waiting for France and Germany.

His Excellency urged most strongly the desirability, for the interests of Italy and England, of no longer delaying the recognition of Roumania, repeating the arguments in favour of this course which he has used on previous occasions, and which have been duly reported to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 123.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 184.)
Rome, April 27, 1879.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador informed me last evening that he had communicated to the Italian Government a proposal from his Government that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople should meet in Conference for the purpose of mediating between Greece and Turkey in regard to the frontier question.

The Marquis de Noailles added that he had not received the official answer, but he gathered from Count Tornielli that the Italian Government would be disposed to accept this proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 124.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 185. Confidential.)
Rome, April 27, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 178 of the 25th instant, in which I allude to the confidence now expressed by M. Depretis in Austrian policy, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I took an opportunity last evening of mentioning this circumstance to my Austrian colleague, and of asking him whether any communication had recently been made to the Italian Government as to the policy of the Austro-Hungarian Government in regard to the Greco-Turkish Frontier question.

Baron Haymerle informed me that he had not made any official communication on the part of his Government on this subject, but that in speaking lately with M. Depretis respecting the question referred to he has said, as regards the assertion which he had heard advanced, of its being necessary for Italy to oppose any cession of territory to Greece which might be calculated to arouse armed resistance in Albania, because any rising in Albania would be sure to bring in the Austrians, that he must protest in the strongest manner against any such supposition, and had added that the settled and determined policy of his Government was a strict and faithful adherence to all the stipulations and arrangements of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 125.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 186.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which, on the receipt of your Lordship's telegrm of the 24th instant respecting the question which had arisen in the Commission of Delimitation as to the interpretation of the first proviso at the end of the IInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, I wrote to M. Depretis, together with a copy of his Excellency's reply on this subject.

I beg to explain that I wrote this note in French in order to gain time, as it was too late for me to see M. Depretis that evening, and I was not sure of being able to do so the following day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

Rome, le 24 Avril, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

DEPUIS que j'ai eu le plaisir de vous voir aujourd'hui j'ai reçu un télégramme de Lord Salisbury d'après lequel il paraîtrait qu'une question s'est élevée au sein de la Commission de Délimitation au sujet de l'interprétation de la première provision à la fin de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin, qui dit, "Que cette Commission prendra en considération la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre les frontières du Balkan de la Roumélie Orientale."

Il paraît que le Commissaire Russe prétendait qu'une partie de la ligne du Balkan près de Demirkapu n'est pas sujet à cette provision, mais doit être tracée sans égard aux nécessités de défense de la Turquie.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté soutient au contraire que la provision susdite s'applique à toute la frontière du Balkan de la Roumélie Orientale sans exception, et Lord Salisbury me charge d'exprimer l'espoir que c'est là aussi l'opinion du Gouvernement Italien.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire savoir la manière de voir à ce sujet, je profite, &c.

(Signé) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

M. Depretis to Sir A. Paget.

Rome, le 26 Avril, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

JE n'avais pas appris avant votre billet d'avant-hier qu'une discussion fût engagée au sein de la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie au sujet de l'étendue qu'il faut attribuer à la provision qui se trouve à la fin de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin.

Le Commissaire Italien a sur cette question des instructions qui lui ont été données avant son départ de Rome et qui sont conformes à la réponse que le Cabinet

de Rome a faite à la Russie lorsque cette Puissance a posé sa demande relative à l'interprétation de l'Article II susdit.

Nous pensons que le Traité et les Protocoles de Berlin ont écarté jusqu'à la moindre doute sur l'intention des Puissances de reconnaître au Sultan le droit de pourvoir à la défense des frontières de la Roumélie Orientale en y érigeant des fortifications et en y entretenant des troupes. Ceci fait qu'à notre avis le tracé de la frontière peut descendre du côté de la Bulgarie autant qu'il est nécessaire pour la défense des passages des Balkans; mais nous pensons qu'il faut éviter de comprendre dans cette démarcation tout territoire Bulgare qui ne soit pas strictement nécessaire pour l'établissement des fortifications.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DEPRETIS.

No. 126.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 29, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions No. 14 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I asked Count Tornielli, who called upon me this morning, whether it would be agreeable to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha in order to advise him; adding, in the words of your Lordship's telegram, that it is presumed that the Porte would give its consent in accordance with its own Circular.

Count Tornielli replied to the effect that the Italian Government considered it, as a matter of course, already settled that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 127.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No 191. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 29, 1879.*

COUNT TORNIELLI called upon me this morning to ask me, on the part of M. Depretis, whether I was aware of the answer which Her Majesty's Government had returned to the proposal of the French Government for mediation of the Ambassadors at Constantinople on the Greco-Turkish Frontier question, and, if not, whether I would make inquiries of your Lordship upon the subject.

The French Ambassador, Count Tornielli said, was very pressing for the reply of the Italian Government, reproaching them with being lukewarm on this question, but the Italian Government was desirous of knowing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the French proposal before giving their own, and M. Depretis would therefore be obliged if I could acquaint him promptly with your Lordship's reply. Count Tornielli added that they had heard that Germany and Russia had accepted the French proposal.

Count Tornielli informed me, in the course of the conversation which ensued, that, in reply to some of the observations of the Marquis de Noailles as to the want of earnestness ("empressement") shown by Italy in this question, he had remarked to his Excellency that as the Italian Government had information that the French Cabinet was in consultation with that of London as to the new tracing to be proposed, without taking Italy into their confidence, they ought not to be astonished if the Italian Government did maintain a certain reserve in regard to a matter which was apparently being arranged without their participation. Subsequently, Count Tornielli said the French Ambassador had come to tell him he was misinformed as to the French Government being in negotiation with Her Majesty's Government as to the new line of frontier, but however this might be, the policy of the Italian Government, Count Tornielli added, remained the same, viz., they wished to give to Greece all the territory which Greece could occupy peacefully, but not more, for the reason that they did not believe that Greece was powerful enough to put down the armed resistance of the Albanians, and the Italian Government did not wish to sow the seeds of fresh complications. If, however, the other Powers insisted on the frontier being drawn according to the lines which had been laid

down in the Protocols of the Congress of Berlin, the Italian Government would also probably consent, but with one reservation, viz., that whatever might happen, there should be no intervention of foreign troops to suppress any resistance which might take place on the part of the population of the annexed district.

Count Tornielli alluded to the possible case of the Greek army being defeated by the Albanians, and of the latter marching on Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 128.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 195.)
Rome, May 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an article from last evening's "Italie," which has the appearance of an official communication relative to the recent French proposal for the settlement of the Greco-Turkish Frontier differences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Extract from "l'Italie" of May 1, 1879.

LE DIFFÉREND TURCO-HELLÉNIQUE.—La note que le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de France a adressée aux Représentants de la République près les Grandes Puissances au sujet du différend Turco-Hellénique marque une nouvelle phase de cette question, à laquelle se rattachent, chez nous, bien des intérêts et bien des sympathies. Au moment où la diplomatie Européenne est sur le point d'entreprendre sa tâche, il nous paraît utile de résumer les termes du problème qu'elle est appelée à résoudre.

Anxieuses d'écarter, en Orient, toute cause de nouveaux troubles, les Puissances représentées à Berlin ont voulu chercher, entre les aspirations de la Grèce et la résistance de la Turquie, les éléments d'une conciliation. Elles ont supposé, d'abord, que les deux parties pourraient s'entendre directement entre elles pour une rectification de frontière de nature à faire cesser un litige dont les recrudescences périodiques perpétuent dans la péninsule des Balkans une situation pleine d'embarras.

Cette supposition, que la Turquie elle-même a admise en apposant sa signature au Traité du 13 Juillet, 1878, pourrait cependant ne pas se réaliser. En vue de l'insuccès d'une négociation directe sur la base du Traité qui, dans la 13e séance du Congrès, avait obtenu les suffrages unanimes des Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances, celles-ci se sont engagées, par l'Article XXIV du Traité, à offrir leur médiation à la Turquie.

La Turquie n'a donc pas accepté, il est vrai, le tracé que les Grandes Puissances avaient déclaré être, à leurs yeux, le plus propre à concilier les intérêts des deux parties en cause; mais, ayant signé le Traité de Berlin, elle ne saurait ignorer que, le jour où l'entente directe avec la Grèce ne se serait pas faite, la Sublime Porte se trouverait en présence d'une médiation que les Grandes Puissances se sont engagées envers elles-mêmes d'exercer entre les deux parties. La Turquie ne saurait pas se faire d'illusion sur la valeur pratique de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin. Un de ses Plénipotentiaires, Carathéodory Pacha, le Ministre actuel des Affaires Etrangères, ayant essayé de faire remplacer le mot "médiation" par les mots "bons offices," cette demande a été nettement repoussée par le Congrès, le Prince de Bismarck ayant, d'ailleurs, fait remarquer qu'en présence d'une offre éventuelle de médiation de la part des Puissances, la Turquie n'avait qu'à prendre note de l'entente intervenue, à ce sujet, entre les Puissances.

La Grèce et la Turquie ayant, aujourd'hui, fait connaître, chacune de son côté, que la négociation directe pour la rectification des frontières est désormais épuisée, le moment est venu d'appliquer la clause stipulée à Berlin en vue de cette éventualité. Si les Puissances voulaient s'en tenir strictement, en cette conjoncture, au *modus procedendi* d'une médiation proprement dite, elles devraient faire, d'abord, une démarche formelle, à Constantinople et à Athènes, afin d'amener les deux parties à accepter *à priori* les conclusions qu'elles croiraient devoir prendre dans leur qualité de médiatrices. Un pareil procédé n'aurait peut-être pas assez de chances d'être agréé par tous les Cabinets.

Le fait est que, d'après nos renseignements, le Cabinet Français, tout en prenant l'initiative, n'a pas voulu s'engager dans une voie où l'œuvre de conciliation aurait pu rencontrer bientôt de graves obstacles. Le *modus procedendi* que M. Waddington propose aux Puissances adoucirait ce que l'exercice rigoureux d'une médiation pourrait avoir, aux yeux de quelques Puissances, de moins amical pour les deux parties. La note de M. Waddington ne va pas, quoi qu'en disent des journaux soi-disant bien renseignés, au delà de cette question préalable et de pure forme. Cette pièce, au sujet de laquelle le Cabinet de Rome ne sera certainement pas le dernier à se prononcer, ne saurait donc causer, ainsi qu'on l'a dit, de bien graves préoccupations dans nos régions officielles. Ce qui donne le plus à réfléchir, ce qui réclame toute la sollicitude de ceux qui ont, devant le pays, la responsabilité des actes du Gouvernement, c'est le fond même de la question.

La question des frontières Helléniques s'est, en effet, révélée sous un aspect nouveau le jour où, les Plénipotentiaires de la Grèce et de la Turquie étant réunis à Preveza, on a dû s'apercevoir qu'en dehors du différend entre les Cabinets, il y avait, entre les aspirations de la race Hellène et celles d'une race moins connue, la race Skiptare, un antagonisme, en présence duquel l'Europe devra, dans l'intérêt des populations locales, dans l'intérêt, non-seulement du Royaume Grec, mais encore de l'Hellénisme en général, faire preuve d'un esprit hautement équitable et impartial. Nous aurons probablement l'occasion de revenir sur ce côté, qui est, pour l'Italie surtout, le plus important de la question.

No. 129.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 196.)
Rome, May 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I this morning addressed to M. Depretis, informing his Excellency, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to your Lordship a telegram from M. de Giers at Livadia announcing the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg by the National Assembly of Bulgaria, and that Her Majesty's Government approve this selection.

In an interview which I had with M. Depretis yesterday his Excellency informed me that the Italian Government had no objection to the choice of Prince Alexander of Battenberg as Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

Rome, May 2, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, in compliance with instructions which I have received from the Marquis of Salisbury, that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to his Lordship the day before yesterday a telegram from M. de Giers at Livadia announcing the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg by the National Assembly of Bulgaria, and that Her Majesty's Government approve of this selection.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 262. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I WAS asked this afternoon by Baron Orczy whether I could confirm an intimation made to Count Andrassy by Count Schouvaloff, that Her Majesty's Government would

not be indisposed to agree to a proposal for allowing a Russian military force to remain at Philippopolis for a time as a support to the new Governor-General.

I said that I was not aware of any such suggestion having been made, and that I had no reason to believe that it would be favourably received by Her Majesty's Government, who had expressed their full concurrence in Count Andrassy's opinion, that the Russian occupation should not be prolonged upon any pretext whatever.

I mentioned also that Count Schouvaloff, who had had a long conversation with me in the forenoon, had made no allusion whatever to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 131.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 263.)
Vienna, April 29, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF tells me that on arriving at Vienna he had been taken by surprise on learning that Count Andrassy considered that, according to the terms of the Treaty, the evacuation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia should be completed by the 3rd May.

He had never heard a hint of such an interpretation of the Treaty; but having looked at the text carefully, he must admit it to be open to it for persons not aware of all the discussions that had taken place on the subject.

It was, however, now materially impossible for the evacuation to be carried out by the date in question, though he was of opinion that it should be effected as rapidly as possible.

The plan that had been adopted was first to withdraw all the less advanced forces, leaving to the last the advanced posts in the neighbourhood of the frontiers, which would be quickly passed through the country when the bulk of the force was gone.

I should assume from his language that Count Andrassy must have been very explicit in saying that he regarded the presence of any Russian troops after the 3rd May as an irregularity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 132.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 264. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 29, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador yesterday, in a conversation with Baron Orczy, let fall an observation which is sufficiently curious to merit being reported to your Lordship.

He had been asking how matters were proceeding in Bosnia, and whether difficulty in the maintenance of order was anticipated, to which Baron Orczy had answered that the Mussulman population seemed satisfied and quiet, and that, though the Christians were discontented at not being allowed to take possession of lands that they had been occupying as tenants, it was expected that the difficulty with them would be gradually overcome.

M. Novikow then said, rather as if he were thinking aloud, that is what the Russian army feels as a "humiliation." They are to be obliged to evacuate Bulgaria, while the Austrian army continues in Bosnia, and does what it pleases in that province.

Baron Orczy only remarked that any objections to the arrangement should have been brought forward at Berlin, as nothing was being done but what had been settled there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 133.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 267.)
Vienna, April 29, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF called upon me yesterday, and talked at some length of the part he had been taking in the recent negotiations, expressing his regret at the failure of his attempt to bring about the mixed occupation, to which, he said, he had had the greatest difficulty in obtaining your Lordship's consent and that of Lord Beaconsfield. He had himself been alive to all the inconveniences of it, and only adopted it from the conviction of its being the only way of avoiding a calamity.

It had, however, broken down, and your Lordship's alternative proposition had now to be considered. His Government had agreed to it upon the condition that the Porte should for the present abstain from sending garrisons to the Balkans; that Aleko Pasha should be appointed Governor-General of East Roumelia; and that the Turkish troops should not occupy Bourgas or any place along the East Roumelian frontier till the Russian evacuation had been completely carried out; but he did not know what progress the negotiations may have made since he left St. Petersburgh.

I said that, as he was aware, Her Majesty's Government had intimated their readiness to advise the Porte not to occupy Bourgas till after the Russian evacuation, but, speaking only for myself, and not for your Lordship, I thought it would be very objectionable to put that position in the hands of the newly-created militia, which would be certain to oppose the Turkish troops when the time came for their occupying a place to which they have a Treaty right, rendering a serious conflict inevitable. I observed that what had taken place at Adrianople and other parts of South Roumelia had proved how easy it was to let Turkish garrisons replace the Russian troops without collision or disorder of any kind; and the same course might be followed at Bourgas, to which the Turkish troops might be transported by sea, without passing through any disaffected populations.

Count Schouvaloff replied that the same remark had been made to him by Count Andrassy, but he had pointed out the essential difference in the positions of Southern and of Eastern Roumelia; for in the latter, he would not stay to inquire by what means brought about, a state of things existed which made it certain that the appearance of the first Turkish soldier within its frontiers would be the signal for resistance; blood would flow, excesses would take place, and exaggerated reports of them would be spread, and if Russian troops still remained in the country he could not answer for the consequences.

He believed it to be true that if Bourgas were made over to the East Roumelian militia the entry of the Turks would be resisted by it; but a conflict was inevitable; and all he cared for was that it should not occur as long as the Russian flag was to be seen in the country, for it would then take European dimensions, whereas, if it took place after the whole Russian army was gone, it would be merely local.

Count Schouvaloff did not appear to me to contemplate the entry of the Turks immediately on the withdrawal of the Russian garrison from Bourgas, which is what I understand as intended by your Lordship's alternative suggestion, and my remarks to him had reference to the objections there would be to their being a sufficient interval to permit a Bulgarian military force to occupy it before the Turks came in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 134.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 271.)
Vienna, May 2, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY, the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, has arrived here, and has brought with him the text of the Novi-Bazar Convention.

When handing it over to Count Andrassy, he informed his Excellency of the Sultan's wish that the Secret Article should be cancelled.

Speaking to me on the subject, Count Andrassy remarked that as the Secret Article provided that any attack upon one of the parties in the Novi-Bazar district should be

regarded as an attack upon both parties, it was clearly introduced for the benefit of Turkey alone, and could not confer any advantage upon Austria.

Should the Sultan, therefore, make a point of it, the Article would, of course, be cancelled, but Count Andrassy could not but look upon such a wish as little short of an act of insanity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 135.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 273.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that although Count Andrassy does not think it possible to avoid complying with the wish of the French Government, that the Powers should offer their mediation to Turkey and Greece upon the frontier question, he is inclined to doubt whether the best mode of proceeding is by a Conference at Constantinople, as he believes a satisfactory result more likely to be attained if the Ambassadors were to act singly under separate instructions from their Governments, though, of course, as much in concert with each other as possible.

I asked his Excellency what his opinion was in regard to Janina; and he said that he was for adhering closely to the line sketched at Berlin, according to which that place would fall within the new Greek frontier.

I replied that there seemed to be many considerations making it desirable that Janina should be left to Turkey, which I thought could be effected without any decided departure from the recommendation of the Congress, and upon referring to the map he appeared to see that this was not impracticable, but his language was not calculated to make me think that he could be counted upon for supporting a line that would exclude it from Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 136.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 276. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 2, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY asked me to call upon him last night, in order that he might tell me, for your Lordship's information, what had passed between himself and Count Schouvaloff.

The Ambassador began by saying that at St. Petersburgh they complained that the Austrian Government was much less accommodating than that of Her Majesty, but he trusted that difficulties would not be raised here to the negotiations for arrangements that had already reached a satisfactory point.

He had, on his arrival at Vienna, been informed for the first time by M. Novikow of his Excellency having adopted the opinin that, by the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, the Russian evacuation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia ought to be completely carried out by the 1st May, but he hoped his Excellency would not hesitate to adhere to the view of his Government and that of Her Majesty, that the date fixed for its termination was the 3rd August.

Count Andrassy remarked to me about this that he could hardly credit this assumed ignorance of his opinion, which he had stated publicly in the Chambers, and had never concealed from M. Novikow, to whom he had more than once repeated it.

I observed, on my side, that I believed Count Schouvaloff to have gone further than was warranted in intimating Her Majesty's Government to have admitted that the occupation need not be concluded till August; what they had said was that the evacuation must commence in earnest on the 3rd May, and must be continued without any unnecessary delay.

Count Andrassy said that he had told Count Schouvaloff that even if he were to admit, which he did not, that the Russian Government had fulfilled their obligations by

commencing the evacuation on the 3rd May, he could not allow that three months were required for the withdrawal of 50,000 men with two good ports available for their embarkation, and he proposed that the time allowed should be reduced to six weeks.

After some discussion he consented to allow another fortnight, and Count Schouvaloff finally promised to urge his Government to take an engagement that the complete evacuation should be concluded by the 3rd July.

Count Andrassy attaches much value to this gain of a month for the final disappearance of the Russian army in Turkey, and hopes your Lordship will give the proposal the full support of Her Majesty's Government.

Count Schouvaloff had then proceeded to ask for the concurrence of the Austro-Hungarian Government in an arrangement to which Her Majesty's Government had agreed, under which the Turkish troops should not occupy Bourgas till after the complete evacuation by the Russians.

Count Andrassy said that, if the proposal was accepted by Her Majesty's Government, he would consent to it on the following conditions—the first being that the complete command of the militia should be placed in the hands of the Governor-General and the European Commission from the commencement of the evacuation; and next, that by the 3rd July, when the evacuation is to be ended, all the Russian officers should be removed from the militia and recalled.

Count Andrassy earnestly hopes that your Lordship will support these proposals, and also that you will join him in recommending the Porte at once to place a strong force at Mustapha Pasha in addition to the troops at Adrianople, which, he believes, may have the effect of inducing the Bulgarians to remain quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 137.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 277. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 2, 1879.

I LEARN from Count Andrassy that, in a conversation with Count Schouvaloff respecting the mode in which the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission should proceed, he had stated distinctly that he could not admit the distinction between questions of detail and questions of principle if it was sought to include the frontier of Silistria among the latter.

The Berlin Congress had, he said, fixed the principle to be followed upon that point, and the Commission had merely proposed the details.

He could make no further concession than that the matter might, if it would be a satisfaction to the Russian Government, be referred to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, who would come to a final decision about it upon the Protocols of the Commission being laid before them.

With reference to the Balkan frontier, it had been decided at Berlin that the line should follow the chain of the mountains in such a manner as to afford a defensive frontier to Turkey, and upon this principle the Commission must decide the details by a majority of votes.

He does not agree with Her Majesty's Government in thinking that the line should run at a distance of 3 or 5 kilom. to the north of the crest of the mountains, but holds that the Commission must decide where this may be necessary in order to obtain a defensive frontier, and he regards as altogether preposterous the wish of the Russian Government to force the Article of the Treaty by which Turkish troops are not to be quartered upon the Bulgarians into a prohibition against their having their forces in any village along the frontier.

It would, he considers, be a mockery to tell the Porte that it might perch its soldiers on the tops of the mountains, but that it must not keep any supports in the inhabited or habitable country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 138.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 2, 1879.*

A DECREE of the 15th of last month has this day appeared in the "Gazette" of the Empire respecting the incorporation with Dalmatia of Spizza and the country round it to the north, in accordance with the provisions of Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 139.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 5.)

(No. 66.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, April 30, 1879.*

THE Lower House of the Diet has passed the Bill for the incorporation of Spizza into the territory of the Empire.

The Opposition of course protested against it, as a corollary of their rejection of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 140.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, April 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Rayahs are now again appearing in great numbers at Ragusa to claim rations of grain which the Government have offered to supply, gratis, on condition that the rights of the Begs and Aghas should by them be recognized; by which it may be inferred that some arrangement has been come to, and the hitherto existing obstacles removed.

For the present, therefore, no disturbances are apprehended in the Herzegovina, as the inhabitants of that province will for some time to come be entirely dependent on the Austrian Government for any means of existence, and no alternative is left them but to accept what is offered or starve; but this state of things will last only so long as it suits them. It is generally believed that once the country is again cultivated, and a plentiful supply of stores secured, little encouragement would suffice for another revolt—such, at all events, is at present the opinion here.

The Austrian Government have for some time past intended issuing seed for growing purposes, and several Commissioners have been appointed to report upon specimen offered for sale; but all has hitherto been condemned as perfectly useless, and the season being now so far advanced it is feared that for this year most of the land will remain fallow, so that the inhabitants will next winter be again dependent on the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 141.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 28, 1879.*

THE last French note of the 21st instant, inviting the Powers to offer their mediation for the rectification of the Greek frontier to the Porte, was communicated to the German Government on the 25th instant by the French Ambassador.

M. de Bülow tells me that his Government will give the French proposal their cordial support at Constantinople, so that the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty may be carried out with as little unnecessary delay as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 142.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 29, 1879.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of last night I communicated with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who, after submitting the question to the Prince Chancellor, wrote me a note stating that his Highness had no objection to the proposal that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha to his post, in order to support him by their advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 143.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Berlin, May 2, 1879.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction of last night I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approved the selection of Prince Alexander of Battenberg as Prince of Bulgaria by the National Assembly at Tirnovo.

M. de Bülow said that the election of the Czar's nephew had equally met with the approval of the German Government, and that Prince Alexander had obtained the Emperor William's leave to proceed to Darmstadt to confer with his family and await the Bulgarian deputation that was to offer him the Crown of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 144.

Count Andrassy to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, May 5.)

(Translation.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, May 2, 1879.*

THE following is the résumé of my conversation with Count Schouvaloff:—

The Russian Ambassador began by giving me the assurance that, in spite of the well-known determination of the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia not to allow a Turkish soldier to cross their frontier, the Czar was quite determined to carry out the Treaty of Berlin. The only way to effect this now consisted in the following plan, originated with the Emperor Alexander himself, and completely approved by Count Schouvaloff, not because it is the Emperor's idea, but because it is a good idea. The Emperor is quite determined to withdraw his protection from Roumelia ("die Rumelioten sich selbst zu überlassen") as soon as he has complete security that so long as Russian troops still remain in the Balkan Peninsula no Christian blood shall be shed. Were the contrary the case, it would hardly be possible, in regard to public opinion in Russia, to continue the evacuation, whilst, in its rear, bloody conflicts between Christians and Turks were going on. It would be different in the case of conflicts arising after the departure of the Russian army; in that case the Emperor was quite determined to leave the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia to their fate ("sich selbst zu überlassen").

This was his reason for asking us to try to prevail upon Turkey not only to forego for the present the occupation of the line of the Balkans, but also not to concentrate any

troops, either at Bourgas or at Ichtiman, before the evacuation was carried through, because, otherwise, the forcible resistance of the inhabitants would take place immediately, and the evacuation would have to be stayed. He adduced, as example, that at Bourgas Turkish troops would disembark and Russian troops embark simultaneously, and, if the population were to move, an armed conflict would be certain. Whether they wished it or not, the Russian army would be obliged to remain in such a case: "Epargnez-nous donc une folie dans l'intérêt de tout le monde."

England and Russia were, according to Count Schouvaloff, so far agreed that the Turks were not to enter before the evacuation was completed, except in the case of disturbances. In that case, the Governor and the Commission should have the power to call Turkish troops in; till then, the Turks are not to occupy either the Balkans or Bourgas or Ichtiman. The two Governments were further agreed on the choice of Aleko Pasha as Governor, and to extend the European Commission for another year.

Now, we were not only to join this understanding, but, also, further to agree that during the whole course of the evacuation a Russian corps, in the strength of a division, should remain in Philippopolis to maintain order. These troops would, according to Count Schouvaloff's idea, have to protect, in a fashion, the retreat of the army against the inhabitants themselves, and should, after the rest of the army had departed, follow it, as it were, stealthily. What would happen after that would not concern the Russian Government any more, as they would then have neither the will to interfere nor the possibility of ordering their troops to return.

He had heard at Vienna, for the first time, from M. Novikoff that we regarded the 3rd May as the date on which, according to the Treaty, the evacuation ought to have been completed. In St. Petersburgh the opinion prevailed that the 3rd August is the date for the end of the evacuation—an opinion against which neither England nor Turkey had made any objections. The Emperor accordingly intended to begin the evacuation on the 3rd May, the troops evacuating Roumelia by Bourgas and Bulgaria by Varna.

Count Schouvaloff then broached the question of delimitation. He said they were agreed with England on the principle that the watershed should be accepted as frontier-line in the Balkans, and that any deviation therefrom should be traced only in case it were necessary for the defensive position of Turkey. England insisted on these deviations being made exclusively through the decision of the majority of the Commission. The English idea was made clearer by repeated proposals from General Simons, to the effect that the Turkish Balkan positions require, in order to be defensible, all along the Bulgarian frontier, a zone stretching out to the north into the plains over a distance of three kilometres; this zone would therefore, according to the British idea, have to be taken from Bulgaria and given to Turkey by the votes of the Commission. It is not possible for Russia to agree to this, and the Emperor personally is most anxious that no Bulgarian village should be garrisoned by Turkish troops.

For this reason his Government could only accept the decision of the questions of delimitation *per majora* if the question of principle had been decided by the Powers themselves. He asked for our aid in this sense in order to allay the present differences without Russia being outvoted ("majorisiren"). Count Schouvaloff referred here to the note of M. de Giers of the 6th April, copy of which is annexed, which treats this question and that of Arab Tabia, and asked me whether I agreed with the ideas developed in that note.

He then touched upon the election of a Prince for Bulgaria, and mentioned the interim which might ensue between the election of a Prince and his arrival in Bulgaria.

It would be at least three weeks before Prince Battenberg would arrive. Some sort of authority must be provided for during the interval. In his opinion, Prince Dondoukoff should inform the Prince of his election, and the newly-elected Sovereign was to ask the Russian Commanders by telegraph to continue for the present the administration in his name.

Count Schouvaloff added that the Emperor Alexander intended, as Prince Dondoukoff and General Stolipine were to a certain extent compromised, to nominate immediately another General (General Obrutcheff) in their place, with instructions to carry out unreservedly the Treaty of Berlin. He would also have to declare immediately, by a Proclamation, that the Emperor was determined to carry out that Treaty; that the Russian troops were about to retire in consequence, and that the population would have to bear the consequences of any steps on their part in opposition to the Treaty.

I answered as follows the different points touched upon by Count Schouvaloff:—

We were ready, if England was of the same way of thinking, to advise the Porte not to occupy the Balkans, Bourgas, and Ichtiman before the evacuation was completed, except they were called in by the Governor, in unison with the majority of the Commission, on account of threatening disturbances. But as I thought that the fact of a strong

body of troops being in the neighbourhood would exercise a salutary influence on the excited Bulgarians, I should wish that a concentration of Turkish troops at Adrianople or Mustapha Pasha should not be excluded.

We had always looked upon the 3rd May as the date at which the evacuation should have been completed. I cited to Count Schouvaloff his own words, taken from the Protocol of the Berlin Congress, which do not admit of a different interpretation. Although I was forced to admit that, on account of the time lost through the negotiations about the mixed occupation, it was impossible to keep the date of the 3rd May, I could not see what interest Russia could have in protracting the occupation till the 3rd August, after she had once made up her mind in earnest to evacuate. I believed that six weeks from the 3rd May would be amply sufficient; in view of a shorter term, the Turks would be more easily inclined to forego the occupation of Bourgas, Ichtiman, and the Balkans; and as public opinion in Austria-Hungary was particularly anxious to get a trustworthy and lasting peace, the position we would determine to take up would, *en première ligne*, depend on what sort of security we could obtain for the evacuation being carried out by that date. But it is quite as necessary that the evacuation should begin on the 3rd May in earnest, and with large bodies of troops, in order to show the Roumelians the impossibility of the army of occupation returning, even in view of armed conflicts provoked for that purpose.

At the same time, the Russian Commanders, not only in Bulgaria, but also in Roumelia, would have to declare explicitly by proclamation that the occupation ceases, *de jure*, with the 3rd May, that the Czar had ordered the evacuation, and that they, in consequence, only continued to administer in a provisional way till they could hand over the administration to the Prince of Bulgaria and to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

Such declarations, coupled with the fact that the evacuation had begun in earnest and with large bodies of troops, would suffice to show the Roumeliots that a movement had no chances of success. We could not agree to allow a body of troops to be exempted from the evacuation, in order that they might introduce and protect the Governor-General and the European Commission, for two reasons: 1. Because that would look as if there were doubts about the complete evacuation. 2. Because there would be too much inconsistency in putting the new order of things under Russian protection, while at the same time the lawful Sovereign's troops were prohibited from occupying the frontier. As, however, as long as the evacuation lasts, some Russian troops would always be in the country, it followed as a matter of course, and without the necessity of any particular body being designated for that purpose, that they would be responsible for the maintenance of order and tranquillity. Therefore, the Commission would have to begin their work at the same time as the Governor begins his functions, and the civil power as well, as the right to dispose of the Eastern Roumelian Militia is handed over to him. I laid particular stress on the latter point, and added that we had no objection against the Russian officers in the militia remaining there till the end of the evacuation, as had been discussed between London and St. Petersburgh.

I then spoke about the Delimitation question, and declared first of all that I could not agree with the despatch of the 6th April, principally for two reasons: first, because the Delimitation question near Silistria was treated as one of principle, whilst we could not concede such a character to it; and secondly, on account of the last sentence, which excludes absolutely and in every direction the occupation of Bulgarian villages by Turkish troops. Now I am not of opinion, and have already expressed that much at Berlin, that it is necessary for defensive purposes to add to the Turkish Balkan position a whole cordon of Bulgarian territory. On the other hand, the Treaty right of Turkey to garrison the Balkans would become illusory, and it would sound like irony if the Turks were prohibited from placing the necessary *soutiens* and reserves for their troops occupying the summit of the Balkans on Eastern Roumelian territory at the foot of the Balkans, only because those places happened to be inhabited by Bulgars. I, therefore, could not agree to the principle, that Bulgarian villages may not be garrisoned by Turkish troops, and I did not believe that such a principle in any way followed from the Article of the Berlin Treaty which excludes such troops from the interior of Roumelia. According to my view, Turkey had undoubtedly the right to station troops at the foot of the Balkans towards the south, as *soutiens* for the troops occupying the *crête*, but she could be held to provide barrack accommodation for these troops. Taking this for granted, we would be prepared to instruct our Commissary on the Delimitation Commission to the effect that we wish to avoid as much as possible—whenever the defensive necessities of the Balkan line require a deviation from the line of the watershed—Bulgarian territory being transferred to Turkey, and especially the faculty being conceded to the Porte to garrison Bulgarian villages north of the Balkans. I added, however, that I could not admit that any question of principle

was doubtful in respect to delimitation. I looked upon the frontier question as settled in principle by the Congress; the carrying out of that question, therefore, had to take place through the decisions of the majority of the Commission.

I took occasion here to mention the proposition made to me a short time ago by M. de Novikoff, that a body of Russian troops should accompany the Commission of Delimitation for their protection, and that the 15th July should be fixed as the date on which the Commission must have achieved its labour, so as to enable the said troops to quit the country "at the time stipulated by Treaty." I said that I quite perceived the advisability of having a military escort, but that I thought a small detachment would amply suffice for that purpose; on no account, however, could I accept any connection between the evacuation and the delimitation—two things which had nothing whatever to do with one another. The very small escort, which we accepted with thanks, could certainly be exempted from the evacuation.

In respect to the Arab Tabia affair, I did not withhold from the Count my opinion that the treatment of Roumania by his Government did not seem to me capable of easy explanation. The military honour of Russia had been satisfied by the Roumanian garrison having been dislodged. Now, therefore, Russia could leave the question to the conference of Ambassadors, who would have to settle it definitively. And in order to act as loyally towards him as was my wont, I wished to inform him beforehand that our Ambassador would vote for the decision of the Delimitation Commission, because, according to our information, any other decision would render the bridge, which was an absolute necessity for Roumania, impossible.

Lastly, I agreed that some sort of provision was necessary for the transfer of power between the election of the Prince at Tirnova and his *de facto* assuming office. But the mode which he proposed seemed to me to endanger the authority of the new Prince. It would seem to me more suitable if, after the election, Prince Dondoukoff were to issue a proclamation to the effect that the mission and the powers intrusted to him by the Emperor Alexander had now, *de jure*, ceased to exist, but that as the Prince of Bulgaria could only arrive later, he should continue, provisionally, to administer the Principality till the Prince would be able to do so himself.

Count Schouvaloff assented for the most part to what I had said. He would strongly urge at St. Petersburgh compliance with my wish in respect to the hastening of the evacuation. He did not think, however, that six weeks would be deemed sufficient at St. Petersburgh, but still he should strongly recommend that term, and hoped that at least eight weeks would be promised as the very longest term.

He then said that certainly Mustapha Pasha was the place where a concentration of Turkish troops could most conveniently be admitted.

He had not meant to put forward the proposition for leaving a body of troops at Philippopolis as a guard to the Commission in so definite a form; he quite gave that idea up, and observed that he had only thought that things would come to pass in that sense of their own accord, as all the troops stationed in Eastern Roumelia would be marched through Bourgas, and therefore those stationed at Philippopolis would leave last.

He would also represent at St. Petersburgh, in accordance with my view, the necessity of putting the militia under the orders of the Governor of Eastern Roumelia; also the necessity of evacuating *en masse*, and for the official declaration that the occupation had ceased, *de jure*, in Bulgaria as well as in Eastern Roumelia on the 3rd May.

In respect to Arab Tabia, he said that his Government had already conceded the main point, but he would still report my view of the matter, and he hoped that M. de Novikoff would be enabled to give me soon a satisfactory answer on all those points.

The above is the substance of my conversations with Count Schouvaloff.

Your Excellency will be pleased to communicate the whole of this despatch confidentially to Lord Salisbury, and to inform him at the same time that as soon as I get the answer from Livadia he will be informed of its purport.

Inclosure in No. 144.

M. de Giers to M. de Novikoff.

St. Pétersbourg, le 6 Avril, 1879.

NOTRE Circulaire du 24 Mars sur les Commissions de Délimitation, instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, ayant été communiquée au Gouvernement Britannique, Lord Salisbury a exprimé à notre Chargé d'Affaires le désir de nous voir préciser ce que nous entendions par question de principe et question de détail dans cette Circulaire.

L'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre est venu ensuite nous demander si nous considérions comme questions de détail celles de savoir jusqu'où pourrait s'étendre localement le droit de la Turquie de pourvoir à la défense de sa frontière, et quels seraient les points auxquels ce droit pourrait s'appliquer dans les Balkans?

Il nous est d'autant plus facile de répondre à ces vœux du Cabinet de Londres, que nous n'aurons pour cela qu'à résumer des idées déjà émises par le Cabinet Impérial.

Notre manière de voir, en effet, nous semble suffisamment définie par nos Circulaires du 24 Mars et du 9 Février.

Nous admettons la décision par majorité en tout ce qui ne concerne aucune question de principe.

Le simple travail de délimitation consistant à tirer une ligne de frontière conforme à des indications assez précises du Traité de Berlin, ne nous paraît soulever aucune difficulté considérable. Il constitue cependant la plus grande partie de la tâche des Commissions. Les divergences d'opinion peu importantes qui surgiraient peut-être à ce sujet peuvent, selon nous, être tranchées par la majorité des votes.

Nous avons d'autre part déjà indiqué les questions que nous envisageons comme des questions de principe quant à la Commission de la Délimitation de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale. Ce sont celles de la délimitation du côté de Silistrie et celle des Balkans.

Il semble superflu de revenir sur la première, qui a été exposée plus d'une fois en détail dans nos communications aux Puissances.

Quant aux Balkans, nous n'avons fait mention que de deux principes qui découlent directement de l'esprit du Traité de Berlin. Le premier consiste à comprendre l'expression de l'Article II du Traité susmentionné, "chaîne principale du Grand Balkan," comme indiquant la séparation des eaux, de même que le thalweg forme la ligne de démarcation des rivières. Le second est celui de prendre en considération pour la frontière de la Roumélie et de la Bulgarie la défense purement passive de cette frontière par les Turques.

A part ces considérations, c'est-à-dire celle d'une défense purement tactique des Balkans et celle de faire passer la frontière par la séparation des cours d'eaux sur la crête, nous ne verrions pas d'inconvénients à reconnaître un caractère de détail aux questions concernant les localités à désigner pour l'installation des garnisons Turques.

Nous croyons toutefois devoir ajouter une troisième réserve essentielle. Le rayon attribué aux garnisons susmentionnées, ne devrait en aucun cas s'étendre à des villages Bulgares, le Traité de Berlin ayant établi une fois pour toutes que les troupes Turques ne peuvent pas séjourner dans le pays.

Recevez, &c.

No. 145.

Count Andrassy to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 5*, 1879.

SIR HENRY ELLIOT has inquired whether we are of opinion that the European Commission is to accompany Aleko Pasha and aid him with their advice. Your Excellency will be pleased to inform Lord Salisbury that we look upon this as very expedient indeed, and that we especially wish that both the Governor and the Commission should proceed to Philippopolis as soon as possible.

No. 146.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, May 4*, 1879.

FRENCH Minister has communicated to Greek Government French Circular of the 21st April last. The King has expressed himself to Foreign Minister as dissatisfied with proposal to open direct negotiations at Constantinople. He considers all attempts at a direct understanding have been exhausted at Prevesa; that he would never consent willingly to curtailment of what was suggested at Berlin. Secondly, he objects to the choice of Constantinople as place of meeting on account of local influences, and would

have preferred Paris or Berlin. At Constantinople two at least of the Ambassadors are opposed to concession to Greece of all the territory granted by the Treaty of Berlin.

His Majesty, as above reported, has, I doubt not, expressed the feelings of the Government and of the country.

No. 147.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 4, 1879.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 3rd, following in French:—

"De Démircapou jusqu'à Kosica les mots du deuxième paragraphe de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin (la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan) seront interprétés en ce sens que la frontière suivra en général la ligne de partage des eaux. Si après un examen des cartes et du terrain la Commission voyait que dans certains points de la frontière les positions qui se trouvent sur le versant méridional de la crête ne suffisent pas à la défense, il y aurait lieu de chercher ces positions sur la crête même et aussi sur le versant nord, mais toutefois sans dépasser les limites strictement nécessaires à une défense."

(Télégraphié aussi à Lord Dufferin.)

No. 148.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 4, 1879.*

AT sitting No. 19 the following proposition was accepted:—

Following in French:

"Dans le Kanabad Balkan, Prievica Balkan, Kasan Balkan, la Commission est restreinte par le texte du Traité à suivre la crête; elle ne pourra jamais s'en écarter dans le tracé de la frontière. Pour préciser sa tâche elle acceptera comme ligne frontière la ligne du partage des eaux partout où la crête a une forme bien marquée. Dans les autres points la ligne frontière pourra être avancée jusqu'à la limite nord de la crête si besoin il y a pour la défense de la Roumélie Orientale.

"A cette proposition j'ai fait ajouter des mots en ce sens: 'Dans le but de se conformer à la prescription de l'alinéa 11, Article II du Traité.'

"Cette addition fut acceptée."

No. 149.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 5, 1879.*

RESPECTING my telegram No. 9. Defensive position implicates extension of frontier beyond it to a distance securing it from molestation; consequently, wherever frontier line is fixed along watershed it will be because no defensive works are required, or because good position is found at sufficient distance in rear. Where the position is required and none exists in rear, it may be sought on watershed, pushing frontier beyond it, or still further on northern slope, with frontier again beyond it. Proposition, as accepted, admits of all debate at all points judged necessary by majority of the Commission, and completely fulfils Treaty.

No. 150.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 5, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 16.

It is impossible to have a meeting of the Commissioners, as the two Russian Commissioners have left to-day with General Obrouscheff for Philippopolis.

Aleko was to have arrived here yesterday.

After seeing Sir H. Layard, who has just arrived, I will telegraph again.

No. 151.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 398.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 49, the Minister for Foreign Affairs told me yesterday that the Russians were pressing the Porte to make a declaration that they would not send troops into Eastern Roumelia.

I strongly urged his Excellency to insist upon the right to occupy Bourgas. He said that he should do so; but with regard to the rest, as the Porte had, in fact, no intention to send troops, he might make a declaration to that effect, not omitting the words, "at present."

No. 152.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879, 5 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government entirely concur in views of Count Andrassy, as conveyed in Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 78, and request you to urge them on the Porte.

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879, 6 P.M.*

YOURS 398. It is of great importance that the Porte should bind itself by no pledge which will prevent its sending troops to Bourgas, Ichtiman, or into the interior in case of an insurrectionary movement.

The moment the pledge is given the inhabitants will take advantage of it. They should be very strongly urged upon this point.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 86; Vienna, No. 45.)

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

I HAVE received your repetition of No. 78.

Inform Count Andrassy I have telegraphed to Mr. Malet to urge the views expressed therein on Porte.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

IN reply to my inquiry as to terms of Resolution adopted by Frontier Commission settling principle to be followed in marking frontier, I have received following telegrams from General Hamley:—

[Repetition of Nos. 9, 10, and 11 from General Hamley.]

No. 156.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 634.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

I INFORMED you to-day in my telegram No. 52 that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the views expressed by Count Andrassy to Count Schouvaloff, in the course of their conversation on the subject of the Russian evacuation of Eastern Roumelia and of the occupation of certain points in the province by the Turkish forces, as reported by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna in his Excellency's telegram No. 78 of the 2nd May, and I have requested you to urge the Porte to act in accordance with them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 157.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 636.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

IN the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is of great importance that the Porte should not bind itself to any engagement which would prevent Turkish troops being sent to Bourgas or Ichtiman, or into any part of the interior of Eastern Roumelia, in the event of an insurrectionary movement taking place. As soon as any engagement of the kind is taken, the inhabitants of the province are sure to take advantage of it.

I have telegraphed to request that you will strongly impress this consideration upon the Sultan and his advisers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 158.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 637.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

I APPROVE the note addressed by you to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of which a copy is inclosed with your despatch No. 338 of the 23rd ultimo, requesting that that portion of the tracing of the frontier between Russia and Turkey in Asia, which has been carried beyond Kara-Ourgan previously to the arrival of the British Commissioner, may be cancelled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 159.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 290.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 290 of the 3rd instant, I have to request your Excellency to inform Count Andrassy that I have instructed Mr. Malet by telegraph to urge upon the Porte the adoption of his Excellency's views, expressed in your telegram No. 78 of the 2nd instant, as to the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia, those views meeting, as I have already informed you, with the full concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 160.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 298.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 259, Confidential, of the 26th April last, I have to state to your Excellency that I approve the language you held to Aleko Pasha, as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 161.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 399.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 5, 1879.*

ARRIVED at Therapia this morning.

No. 162.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 17 and 18.

Lord Donoughmore and myself dined last night with the Sultan, and met Aleko Pasha. He does not know when he starts.

Do not you think we should have some defined instructions as to what our function are to be? Are we to give advice when asked, or to offer it? Shall we do one or the other as a body, or separately?

The Porte has protested against the conduct of General Stolipine. Nothing would do so much good as his immediate recall.

No. 163.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 400.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1879.*

I SAW Sultan yesterday. His Majesty is very anxious to avoid a Conference on the Greek question, and wishes to know whether Her Majesty's Government are now committed to it and unable to assist him further. He said he was prepared to propose a line which would satisfy interests of all parties if he could be assured of support of Her Majesty's Government. He promised to show this line when he next saw me, which will be on Friday. I urged upon him the importance of settling this matter without delay, and expressed my deep regret that he had not accepted the offer of Her Majesty's Government, which would have secured him Janina and Larissa. Does this offer still hold good?

With reference to Sir H. Wolff's telegram No. [?], Sultan said he had refused to pledge himself to General Obroutscheff not to send garrisons or troops into Balkans or Eastern Roumelia for one year, but had merely stated that it was not his intention to do so for the present.

No. 164.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 401.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER is very anxious that the Eastern Roumelian Commission should return to Philippopolis as soon as possible, in order to prepare for the arrival of Aleko Pasha, who will be sent to enter upon his duties as Governor immediately the Commission has made the necessary arrangements. His Highness begs your Lordship to hasten its return, as he considers it highly important to avoid delay.

No. 165.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 6, 1879.*

THE Grand Vizier told me last night that the Porte intended to apply Statute not only to the European provinces, but, as far as possible, elsewhere. He said that the work being a complete one it would be easier to adopt it than to begin a new one.

I told his Highness that I thought that if the Porte would take some active measures with their Vacouf, this would be the surest way of obtaining money.

No. 166.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 6, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs sent to consult me on a compromise he intends proposing to Russian Ambassador. The new Secretary-General is to go to Philippopolis, accompanied by the Commission, and to arrange new appointments with General Stolipine. This done, Aleko Pasha and Stolipine will go.

I said I thought this a good arrangement, and considered myself authorized to conform to it.

His Excellency thought Commission should receive some kind of fresh instructions defining its new competency.

I think it dangerous our being consulted upon the choice of new functionaries.

No. 167.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 6, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 6, 1879, 2 P.M.*

M. DEPRETIS informs me that he sent French Ambassador the day before yesterday his answer to the proposal of the French Government upon the Greek frontier question. It accepts proposal in principle, but reserves the main question, viz., the line of the frontier, and also the method by which the mediation of the Representatives at Constantinople is to be exercised.

No. 168.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1879, 6·35 P.M.*

YOURS 169. Any individual advice you give to Aleko, whether spontaneously or not, is necessarily unofficial, and therefore needs no instructions. Collectively the Commission appears principally to be charged with the duty of advising Aleko if he should wish to summon Turkish troops. But you will be authorized to propose that Commission should give advice on other subjects if he asks for it. I will send instructions by messenger.

No. 169.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 54. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1879, 6.30 P.M.*

IF you have opportunity, try to prevent Sultan from cancelling Secret Article of Austrian Treaty. It is impossible to understand his motive in wishing to do so; it must be the result of some insane suspicion. Austrians are naturally willing enough to cancel, as the concession was obtained from them with some difficulty.

No. 170.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 622.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the proposal contained in M. Waddington's Circular of the 21st ultimo, for the offer of mediation by the Powers between Greece and Turkey, in accordance with the liberty reserved by them for that purpose in the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government adhere to the opinion which they have previously expressed, that this mediation would be more effectual if it were reserved until the other arrangements of the Treaty had been carried into complete execution, and the difficulties which now hinder the free action of the Sultan had been in a greater measure removed.

It appears, however, that the Government of France have come to the conclusion that this is the most opportune moment for bringing into operation the XXIVth Article of the Treaty.

Her Majesty's Government do not desire, by pressing for delay, to offer any impediment to the action which the French Government believes to be best calculated to attain the object contemplated in the Congress at Berlin, and they are willing to tender their mediation simultaneously with that of the other Signatory Powers, for the purpose of facilitating negotiations.

M. Waddington further proposes that the mediation shall be carried on through the Ambassadors at Constantinople assembled in Conference.

I fully concur in the opinion that the Ambassadors of the six Powers at Constantinople will best represent them in carrying this mediation forward, and as soon as I learn that M. Waddington is instructing the Ambassador of France with this view I will address instructions of similar purport to Sir Henry Layard.

I am not sure whether I entirely comprehend the object which M. Waddington has in view in proposing that the Ambassadors conducting the mediation shall be assembled in Conference. In the discharge of their delicate and important duty they will naturally be careful to maintain the fullest mutual communication. It appears to me, however, doubtful whether any advantage will be gained by the assembly of a formal Conference which is not provided for in the Treaty.

If its determination were made subject to the vote of the majority, the co-operation of the Powers would possibly be more effective; but it is evident that some of the questions which might arise would be such as no Power would subject to a decision to which it was not a consenting party. I understand, however, from your Excellency, that M. Waddington does not propose that any other than unanimous decisions shall be taken. In that case it

may be doubted whether the Ambassadors will find any advantage in giving to their consultations the formal character of a Conference.

It is possible that their mutual communications will be more unfettered and complete if their meetings are of a more informal kind.

It may, however, be desirable to receive and consider the opinions of the Ambassadors themselves before any final determination upon this point is arrived at.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 171.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 639. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1879.*

IN a telegram which I sent to you this afternoon I requested your Excellency to endeavour to prevent the Sultan from insisting that the Secret Article of the Convention recently concluded between Austria and Turkey should be cancelled.

The concession therein contained was obtained from the Austro-Hungarian Government with considerable difficulty, and they will naturally be willing enough to acquiesce in the Sultan's wish to have it cancelled, the motive for which it is impossible to understand.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 172.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 225.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1879.*

WITH regard to the point raised in your telegram No. 169 of to-day as to the functions of the European Commissioners in their relation to the Turkish Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, I have to state to you that the advice which may be given by any Member of the Commission individually to Aleko Pasha, whether spontaneously or upon his invitation, must necessarily be unofficial. In its collective capacity the Commission appears to be principally charged with the duty of advising the new Governor-General, should he desire to summon the Turkish troops into the interior of the province.

Further instructions will be sent to you by the next messenger, when you will be authorized to propose that the Commission shall advise the Governor-General on other subjects in addition to the above, should he seek its opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 173.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 41. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April 26, 1879.*

I HAVE already had the honour to report (No. 37 of the 10th instant) that the border populations of the Lazistan were restless, and I now hear of an occurrence showing that the inhabitants of the districts annexed to Russia are far from being quiet.

It is rumoured that not long ago a mixed force of police having been sent to Adjarah, its inhabitants made prisoners the Lazes incorporated in that force, and invited the Russians to return to Batoom, which they did.

I have not heard of the consequences of this act of revolt, but it is said that the Russian authorities are now anxious that the Lazes should emigrate from their native land.

If this be true, they may be shortly expected to begin their exodus, but, to my knowledge, no preparations are being made to receive them in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 174.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, April 26, 1879.*

AS your Lordship will have gathered from the general tenour of previous despatches, this island continues to be in an unsettled state. On former occasions when Crete has risen in revolt, and the revolt has been followed by subjection, the inhabitants seem to have looked forward to some years, at least, of submission. On the present occasion the arrangement come to, though thankfully accepted at first, begins to be already regarded as of a temporary character. This I take to be mainly due to the perception of the imminent dangers which threaten the Sovereign Power. The various important questions which now distract the Porte, and particularly that relating to the new frontiers of Greece, are all regarded as sources of weakness, and as enhancing their chances of escaping from Turkish rule altogether. The people, indeed, are casting about for some other political connexion, and though their eyes are steadily fixed on Greece as the goal to which their hopes ultimately tend, they are willing in the interval to offer their allegiance to almost any Power which will accept it.

It has latterly become known that a small and unimportant party has been seeking encouragement for a movement in favour of placing the island under French domination. However wild such an idea may appear, it is possible that, if encouraged, it would meet with considerable favour.

Towards England a certain feeling of coldness seems to have taken the place of the enthusiastic regard in which it was formerly held. This is attributable partly to the persistent manner in which the advances towards England made by the Cretans in recent years have been repelled, and partly to stories which get into Greek papers about the harshness of our rule in Cyprus.

A more hopeful feeling regarding the recent concessions made by the Porte was prevalent at first, but it is giving way to the belief that the proposals voted by the General Assembly are not likely to receive the attention they deserve. Nevertheless if Greece abstains, as she is at present doing, from fomenting troubles here, the Porte is not likely to be embarrassed just now by any disturbances. All that is wanting to give prosperity to the island is a strong Government; but this essential quality being absent, the fear is lest the incipient anarchy which exists now should assume larger proportions.

The breach between the two religious sections of the population, which was healed for a time so as to allow of the peaceable repatriation of the Mussulman peasantry, is again widening, as is evidenced by the return of several of their families from the country. Threats are believed to have been uttered by Christian shepherds and others against certain of their Mussulman neighbours, which the latter, isolated as they are and aware of the inability of the Government to protect them, attach undue importance to, and, leaving their property, hurry into town. A properly organized police, and money to pay them, would soon cure this evil.

The threatened demonstration which I had the honour to mention in my despatch No. 36 of the 12th instant, did not come off. Beyond the negligence of the Government in attending to their demands, the Cretans have now no grievances to complain of; but they suffer like the rest of the Empire from the evils incidental to a weak Executive, which may tempt them to courses which can result in no profit to the country, of which the demonstration referred to above furnishes an example.

The Governor-General is still absent on his tour through the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 175.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(No. 69. Political.)
Tirnovo, April 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour this afternoon to telegraph to your Lordship to the following effect:—

"The amended Programme of an Organic Law was to-day signed by the Assembly in a full sitting; after which the Imperial Russian Commissary entered the Assembly Room, and with a short speech, in which nothing occurred requiring special notice, declared the Assembly closed. The Ottoman Commissary and the five Delegates *ad hoc*, as also the Russian Diplomatic Agent, were all present by invitation; and all, the Imperial Ottoman Commissary excepted, signed a short Protocol, affirming the fact that the Assembly, having elaborated an Organic Law, had been closed in regular form.

"The second Assembly, for the election of a Prince, will be opened to-morrow by the Russian Commissary, and will probably complete its work in two sittings, perhaps even in one. The idea of proposing a Russian candidate seems to have been definitively abandoned."

To this telegram I have the honour to add that, though a certain amount of enthusiasm was manifested, there was in no part of the proceedings any approach to disorder, and that although the natural and inevitable compliments and congratulations passed between the Russian Commissary and the Assembly, nothing was said on either side alluding, however remotely, to extra-territorial matters, or that hinted at other dispositions than those of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have also the honour to add that I received this morning from the Russian Diplomatic Agent, M. Davidoff, the most positive assurance that nothing approaching to the candidature of any Russian subject would be permitted. The general expectation is that the entire business of election will be got through with as little ceremony as possible, in fact by acclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 176.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(No. 70. Political.)
Tirnovo, April 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, not having received any answer to a telegram which I sent your Lordship on the 23rd instant, and had also the honour of extending in my despatch No. 67, Political, of the 24th, regarding a scheme for proposing a Russian subject, and in particular the present Imperial Russian Commissary, as candidate for the Principedom of Bulgaria, and fearing lest by any chance my first-mentioned communication might have miscarried, I telegraphed the same in substance to Her Majesty's Acting Diplomatic Representative at Constantinople, in order that the intelligence might, if necessary, be sent forward by him.

I have now the honour to state that, from whatever cause, the project in question, which seemed at one time to be seriously entertained, now appears to have been happily abandoned, though absolute security is, of course, unattainable in a matter of this kind.

The Imperial Ottoman Commissioner, at my recommendation, telegraphed to his Government at Constantinople on the same day and in the same sense as myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 177.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 7.*)

(No. 71. Political.)
Tirnovo, April 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assembly convoked for the election of the future Prince of Bulgaria was this morning opened by the Imperial Russian Commissary, in the presence of the Ottoman Commissary and the Delegates *ad hoc* invited to that effect. The Assembly, which was wholly composed of members chosen by popular election, after the manner which I have had the honour to explain in my previous despatches, numbered 250 Deputies, amongst whom were twenty-two Turks, some Greeks, and an Armenian. I have the honour to inclose a translation of the Russian Commissary's opening speech, in which distinct mention was made of the exclusion of Russian subjects from the candidature. A Protocol, recording the opening of the Assembly, and its object, was signed by all present, the Ottoman Commissary alone expected.

Doors were then closed, the Deputies only remaining within. After a few short preliminaries, the Bishop of Tirnovo, who had been elected as one of the Representatives for that town, then addressed the Assembly, naming Prince Reuss, Prince Waldemar of Denmark, and Prince Alexander Battenberg as the possible candidates, and giving his own opinion in favour of the last. When he had ended speaking, the entire Assembly, without further discussion, elected Prince Battenberg by unanimous acclamation. This result was at once made public amid much and enthusiastic rejoicing, but without any disorder. Followed popular demonstrations of gratitude towards the Russian Commissioner, in which such of the Delegates as chanced to be present were, in their measure, included. The choice made was evidently a very popular one, and sufficiently in accordance with the general wish.

Intelligence was telegraphed to the newly-chosen Prince by the Russian Commissioner, and a deputation of six notables, selected by the same, will, it is said, be sent without delay to wait on the elected Prince in all form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Address of the Imperial Russian Commissioner, opening the Assembly convoked at Tirnovo for the Election of a Prince of Bulgaria, April $\frac{17}{29}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

Honourable Assembly of Representatives of the Bulgarian Nation,

I INVITE you, as the elected Representatives of the Bulgarian people, to perform the great and noble duty assigned you. It is yours to perfect the good fortune of the Bulgarian nation, purchased by the heavy sacrifices and blood of your Russian kinsmen, by the desire of your great liberator, to inaugurate the future political independence of Bulgaria. So far as I am concerned, I will not allow any external influence to bias you; the future Prince of Bulgaria must be freely elected by you; but it is my duty to declare publicly to this Assembly that, in consequence of political reasons, no Russian subject whatever can be permitted by the Emperor to be brought forward as candidate for the Throne of Bulgaria.

Bearing in view the near approach of the term fixed by the European Powers within which the organization of your country must be completed, I think it my duty, to prevent loss of time, to beg that you will assign the Presidentship of this Electoral Assembly to one most honourable, and who has suffered much for Bulgaria, the Venerable Anthimos of Widdin, who will, in his turn, nominate the Vice-Presidents and the Secretaries. There will also be no need to verify the powers of the Deputies, as they have all been elected in accordance with Article 42 of the Provisional Law, of which I, as Imperial Commissary, have confirmed the Protocol.

That the liberty and independence of discussion, so all-important towards the proper election of a Prince, may be complete, your President will take care that the proceedings will be with closed doors, and will request all strangers to quit the Hall of Assembly. Nor need you, should you wish it so, draw up Protocols of the discussion; a simple registration of the act of election will suffice. For yet greater saving

of time, I take the liberty of counselling you to make your election this very sitting, and to communicate to me your decision as soon as made, with the act of election, that I may at once inform my gracious Sovereign that his wishes have been fulfilled, by the completion of your State organization within the appointed term.

May Almighty God guide you in your choice, to the independence and happiness of your beloved country. Such is the sole desire of your liberator; a desire always and everywhere heartily and sincerely shared by the Russian people, the kinsmen and brothers of the Bulgarian nation.

No. 178.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 74. Political.)
Tirnovo, April 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE this day had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship the substance of what follows:—

"That Prince Dondoukoff intends leaving this place on Friday, when he will accompany his wife on her journey to Russia as far as Rustchuk. Thence his Excellency goes direct to Livadia, where he will probably arrive on the 6th May, remaining there in waiting on His Majesty the Emperor of Russia for two or three days. He will then return, passing by Varna, Rustchuk, and the northern districts of the Principality, to Sophia, where he may be expected between the 15th and 20th May."

I now add that the telegraphic despatch summoning the Russian Commissary to Livadia, contained also, as I am informed, the assurance of His Imperial Majesty's satisfaction at the result of the Princely election of yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 179.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 75. Political.)
Tirnovo, April 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the election of Prince Alexander Battenberg to the Bulgarian Principedom was this day officially announced in the Electoral Assembly, by the Russian Commissary, who also read a congratulatory telegram addressed to the Assembly by the Empress of Russia.

The appointment of Bulgarian in the place of Russian Governors to the twenty-six districts into which the Principality is now divided, was also officially announced, and a postal regulation promulgated, after which the Assembly was adjourned, without any further formality.

A review of five battalions, one squadron, and one field battery of the Bulgarian militia, at which all the Delegates *ad hoc* were present by invitation, closed the proceedings of the day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 180.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 493.)
Paris, May 3, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON being in Paris for the day I asked him, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, whether it would, in his opinion, be advisable that the European Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha, the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, to Philippopolis in order to afford him the benefit of their advice.

M. Waddington answered that he approved of the proposal that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 181.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 494.)
Paris, May 3, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON mentioned to me this afternoon a question which had, he said, been put by your Lordship to the French Chargé d'Affaires in London, as to the working of the proposed Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople on the Greek Frontier question.

He begged me to inform your Lordship, in answer to your question, that in his opinion the decisions of the Conference must be taken unanimously and not by majority of votes.

He told me that he had seen Count Schouvaloff, who had just arrived in Paris, and who intended to go on to London to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 182.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 496.)
Paris, May 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a note to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's despatch No. 593 of the 30th ultimo, and have expressed to that Government the high sense entertained by Her Majesty's Government of the services rendered by Captain de Torey on the Commission for organizing the militia and gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 183.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 6, 1879.

YOUR telegram No. 41 has been communicated to Baron Calice, who says Porte has been already informed that Secret Article of Convention shall be expunged if the Sultan makes a point of it, but nothing will be decided till it is known whether Sir H. Layard can persuade His Majesty to withdraw his objection to it.

No. 184.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 6, 1879.

AUSTRO-BULGARIAN Frontier Commissioner has reported arrangement mentioned in your telegram No. 46.

It is considered satisfactory, and calculated to accelerate the work of the Commission.

No. 185.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 402.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Michell, dated yesterday:—

"Evacuation commenced to-day by despatch of pioneers to prepare Shipka road, and by front line in Rhodope being called in one day's march. Governor-General assures me Aleko will be well received.

"Obrutcheff expected to-morrow with Emperor's Proclamation."

No. 186.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to my remonstrance about artillery given to Roumeliotes, Jomini informs me Emperor has forbidden anything but half a battery.

No. 187.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 404. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 54, I had already taken steps to endeavour to prevent the Sultan cancelling the Secret Article of the Austrian Convention. Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs suspect that Russians, having learnt existence of Article, have managed to put Sultan against it. I shall speak very seriously to His Majesty on the subject on Friday.

No. 188.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 406.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Consul-General at Philippopolis, dated yesterday:—

"I have been informed that ten cart-loads of arms were this day dispatched hence by Eagle Committee to villages in the neighbourhood of Avradala."

No. 189.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

I REGRET to say, in answer to yours, No. 400, that we are committed to the offer of mediation. We could have avoided it if Sultan had consented to our proposal, telegraphed on the 7th April, but it is now too late. The negotiations, however, will be placed in your hands, and you are authorized to say to Sultan, quite confidentially, that you will do all you can to assist the Sultan in obtaining the terms we indicated.

No. 190.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1879, 3·35 P.M.*

HAVE you got exequatur of Consul and Vice-Consuls in Asia Minor? I am nervous about the delay.

No. 191.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

YOURS 401. Inform Sir H. Wolff of Grand Vizier's wish. Count Andrassy has expressed same wish. It is a matter on which Commissioners, of course, must decide; but Sir H. Wolff must exercise his judgment as to mode of raising the question.

No. 192.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1879, 3·45 P.M.*

IN yours No. 271 it is said, "This done, Aleko Pasha and Stolipine will go." Where will they go to? Is there not a mistake in telegram?

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1879.*

THE election of Prince Alexander Battenberg has been approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 641.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency informs me, in your telegram No. 400 of yesterday, that the Sultan is very averse to a Conference taking place upon the Greek question.

Her Majesty's Government are now committed to the proposal for mediation which has been brought forward by the French Government. This might have been avoided had the Sultan thought fit to accept the offer which Mr. Malet was authorized by my telegram of the 7th April to make to His Majesty.

The negotiations on the part of Her Majesty's Government will be entrusted to your Excellency, and I authorize you to state quite confidentially to the Sultan that you will do everything in your power to assist His Majesty to obtain the terms which have already been made known to him through Mr. Malet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 195.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 644.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1879.

Sir,

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 401 of yesterday that the Grand Vizier seems anxious for the return to Philippopolis of the European Commission, in order to make arrangements preparatory to the arrival of Aleko Pasha.

The Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs is also decidedly of opinion that the Commissioners should proceed there with as little delay as possible.

This is a matter on which, of course, the Commission is most competent to decide for itself, and it will rest with Sir H. Drummond Wolff to use his judgment as to the mode in which the question can best be brought before the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 21.)

Foreign Office, May 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that I approve your proceedings at the meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, as reported in your despatch No. 10 of the ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 197.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Catalani.

Foreign Office, May 7, 1879.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

WITH reference to the letter which I did myself the honour to address to you on the 14th ultimo on the subject of General Menabrea's note relative to the sanitary arrangements connected with the passage of the Russian troops through the Dobrudja, I have now the honour to inform you that I have received a Report on this subject from Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Danube, to whom General Menabrea's letter was referred.

In this Report Colonel Siborne explains that on the occasion of quarantine measures being adopted by the Roumanian Government for preventing the plague from spreading into its territory from Russia, the Dobrudja, as being open to the passage of the Russian troops, was declared to be outside the sanitary cordon.

On the representation of the Danube Commission, however, and in order to interfere as little as possible with the shipping destined for Danube ports, it was arranged that the town of Sulina should be isolated from the Dobrudja, through which the troops passed, and that vessels arriving at that port should, after submitting to sanitary inspection, take a "gardien" on board, who should report at Galatz whether they had touched at the Russian ports or bank of the river, or those of the Dobrudja, and that the should receive, or be refused, pratique accordingly.

In this manner the minimum of inconvenience was, it is stated, occasioned, and Colonel Siborne adds that he has reason to believe that, as regards the Dobrudja at least, even this restriction will shortly be removed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 198.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 106.)

Athens, April 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter which I have received from the Secretary of the Presbyterian Mission in Greece (a citizen of the United States), sending me copy of a letter addressed by the Minister of Public Instruction to the Nomarch of Attica, stating the conditions which are required by law to be fulfilled before permission is granted to open a school in Greece into which children of Orthodox parents are admitted.

It appears from this communication that I was mistaken in informing your Lordship in my despatch No. 501 of the 14th October last that the exhibition of the picture of the Virgin Mary was not obligatory in such schools.

I stated also, in the same despatch, that I could not ascertain that any school had been closed for non-compliance with the regulations of this Government. It is true, no doubt, that no school has been closed for this reason, but from the statement of Mr. Sampson it appears that a Mrs. Fluhart, a Presbyterian, was prevented from opening a school in Greece in consequence of her inability to conform to the conditions imposed by the Government on her doing so, which amounts to the same thing as regards religious liberty, or liberty of teaching in Greece.

I have ascertained that this lady has established a flourishing school in Candia; consequently it is true that greater liberty as regards religious teaching exists in Turkey than in Greece.

I have stated above that by Greek law the teaching of the Greek catechism and the exhibition of a picture of the Virgin Mary in schools is obligatory; still it is not generally insisted on, and in the instance of the closing of Mrs. Fluhart's school, in consequence of her not being able to comply with this and other conditions, it was only insisted on in order to get rid of her and a person named Kalipothahi, a Greek by birth, but a naturalized citizen of the United States, her Superior, who had made himself troublesome and obnoxious in various ways to the Government here.

There is at this moment in Athens a school attended almost exclusively by children of Orthodox parents, which has been in existence for more than forty years, in which the catechism of the Episcopal Church of the United States, which differs little from the Orthdox catechism, is taught, and in which no picture of the Virgin Mary has ever been exhibited, and the Government has never insisted upon the religious instruction of the pupils being intrusted to an Orthodox priest, or interfered in any way with its management.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 198.

The Rev. J. R. Sampson to Mr. Corbett.

Athens, April 22, 1879.

Sir,

IN a letter addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury (See "Blue Book, Turkey No. 54, 1878," p. 130), after stating that the Orthodox catechism and priest are required, you add:—

It is not true that the Greek Government obliges a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ or of the Virgin Mary to be exhibited in schools opened for the benefit of the general population, and I have been unable to ascertain that any school has been closed for want of compliance with such regulations.

I do not know, Sir, upon what authority you have made this statement, and beg leave to call your attention to the following official document issued some eighteen months ago, when Mrs. Fluhart applied for permission to continue her school in this city—a school sustained by some American ladies, and attended by more than 100 scholars:—

"To the Nomarch of Attica.

("Translation.)

"You are requested to inform the parties concerned, that if they intend to establish a female institution, upon which children of Orthodox parents will attend, they must in conformity with the established laws of the Kingdom submit beforehand to the ministry, through the Nomarch, the programme of lessons which will be taught in the school that they wish to establish, together with a catalogue of the names of teachers, male and female.

"In the programme must necessarily appear sacred lessons, sacred history of the Old and New Testaments, and the catechism of our Orthodox Faith; as also the name of him who is appointed to teach said lessons, who must be a priest of our own institutions. Especially (πρωτίστως) must the holy picture of the Mother of God be hung in the lecture room.

"If they are prevented from complying with these requirements of the law, but desire to proceed in establishing a private school of any known religious denomination, let them know that we have no difficulty in granting them permission for this object, provided only the children of Protestants attend upon said school, which, however, will continue under the immediate supervision of the authorities.

"In this case they ought to know what a responsibility they assume if it be discovered that even one scholar of the Orthodox Faith has been received by them.

"Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs and Public Instruction,

(Signed) "TH. DELIGIANI.

"*Athens, October 29, 1877.*"

From this official document the catechism, priest, and the hanging of the picture of the Virgin, are all equally obligatory, more emphasis indeed being placed upon the last.

The school was, of course, discontinued from want of compliance with these requirements.

This dilemma seems inevitable. Either you have been deceived with regard to the facts in the case, or M. Deligiani has been guilty of gross usurpation of authority in making this unlawful requirement.

Awaiting more light, I am, &c.

(Signed) J. R. SAMPSON,
Secretary of Presbyterian Mission in Greece.

No. 199.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 19.)
Constantinople, May 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the nineteenth meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held yesterday, when the following proceedings took place:—

The Russian Commissioner, without adverting to his former objections to the proposition in my despatch No. 13, desired to substitute for it the following:

"De Demir Kapu jusqu'à Kosica, les mots du deuxième paragraphe de l'Article II Traité de Berlin: 'la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan' seront interprétés en ce sens, que la frontière suivra en général la ligne de partage des eaux. Si après un examen des cartes et du terrain la Commission voit que dans certains points de la frontière les positions qui se trouvent sur le versant méridional de la crête ne suffisent pas à la défense, il y aurait lieu de chercher ces positions sur la crête même, et aussi sur le versant nord, mais toutefois sans dépasser les limites strictement nécessaires à une défense."

As this is substantially the same as the former proposition, and appears exactly to represent the intention of the Treaty of Berlin with respect to the Balkan frontier, it was unanimously agreed to.

It remained to consider the part of the Balkan frontier between Demir Kapu and the Deli Kameik, where the line is restricted by the Treaty to the crests of certain specially-named mountains. The Italian Commissioner made the following proposition respecting it:

"Dans le Karnabad Balkan, Presivica Balkan, Kasan Balkan, la Commission étant restreinte par le texte du Traité à suivre la crête, elle ne pourra jamais, dans le tracé de la frontière, en sortir. Pour préciser sa tâche elle acceptera comme ligne frontière la ligne de partage des eaux partout où la crête a une forme bien marquée. Dans les autres points, la ligne frontière pourra être avancée jusqu'à la limite nord de la crête, si besoin il y a, pour la défense de la Roumélie Orientale."

This was perhaps as much as could be hoped for, considering the restrictions imposed by the Treaty; but I pointed out that in Protocol 15 of the Congress of Berlin, after both parts of the Balkan frontier had been generally delimited, the condition now forming part of Article II was agreed to, and should therefore be considered to apply to both. I therefore, in order that this consideration might have due force, proposed to add the words, "pour se conformer à la prescription de l'alinéa II du Traité, Article II," and this was unanimously agreed to.

As no distinct proposition had yet been adopted rendering a majority of votes decisive, I now proposed the following:

"Les questions principales regardant la délimitation ayant été fixées par des votes d'unanimité, à l'avenir le vote de la majorité décidera sur tous les points discutés."

This was also carried unanimously.

The question of the time of departure for the frontier was then considered, and the 12th May was preferred by the majority. I urged an earlier departure, but no time will be lost by the delay, as the surveying party will require most of the interval to complete their work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 200.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 407.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 49, General Obroutcheff appears to have made same misrepresentations here as Count Schouvaloff at Vienna about language of England. I have given explicit contradiction to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs according to your instructions, and have told him exactly what we have proposed.

No. 201.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 408.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Major Trotter, dated Diarbekir, 17th instant (*sic*):—

"Please answer about Acting Consul. Russian Consul arrived, received outside town bread and salt from the Armenian Bishop, who was accompanied by rabble of lower classes of Armenians. A Russian Vice-Consul has gone to Van. Serious ante- [? inter-] tribal fights among Kurds and Arabs on the border of the desert. Ten to fifteen [?]s killed in three separate encounters during past three weeks. Failure of crops anticipated from continuous drought."

No. 202.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 409.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Michell, dated yesterday:—

"General Obroutcheff read this morning with great solemnity Emperor's Proclamation to Bulgarians of East Roumelia. It announces firm intention to fulfil Berlin Treaty, by which rights acquired by Russian arms are secured without necessity of further sacrifices and disturbances; Russian troops will consequently evacuate province; thanks Bulgarians for friendly attitude towards army; new Civil Administration elaborated by European Commission will soon be introduced; Emperor trusts Bulgarians will fulfil his expectations and avoid cause for accusation of disturbing peace and tranquillity so necessary for their welfare and for the happiness of their brethren of Principality; Bulgarians must look forward [to] life, honour, and property under protection of law of which themselves will be executors. Head of Administration will be a Christian; it will depend upon Bulgarians to use those rights for peaceful and regular development of civil life; Emperor cannot approve of intention of malcontents who desire to obtain by violence objects not in accordance with decision of Powers. Such objects unattainable without will and consent of Europe, and attempt will bring new disasters on country; exhorts counter-action to such illegal tendencies which may sap root of regeneration of Bulgarian nationality; concludes by impressing necessity of peaceful and contented attitude, and with a prayer for prosperity. After Exarch had read translation, General Obroutcheff delivered eloquent and impressive address in same sense, assuring hearers that neither Russia nor Europe would shed another drop of blood. From conversations with Sultan and Turkish Ministers, he was firmly convinced only object in view was happiness and prosperity of population, who would see no more Turkish soldiers, and who had arms against lawless bands. Although Sultan retains right under Treaty, Balkans would not be immediately occupied; military considerations did not require occupation; Bulgarians must prove it unnecessary from political point of view. People received Proclamation with cheers, and scuffle ensued for copies of Proclamation."

No. 203.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May 8, 1879.*

IS a copy of your despatch No. 622 of the 6th instant, relative to Greek frontier, to be communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs?

No. 204.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 20, the words should be "Aleko will follow, and Stolipine will go."

No. 205.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1879.*

AS the Russian Commissioners are at Philippopolis, I think of going there on Monday or Tuesday, and shall do so, unless I hear from you to the contrary, or find Porte does not wish it.

I think there should be an identical instruction to the Commission as to their future duties.

No. 206.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 8, 1879.*

PROJECT of frontier will be drawn up here on large scale map. This project, when approved, will have to be carried out on the ground, owing to the inadequacy of the map; difference of opinion will arise as to trace; for instance, in the neighbourhood of village, how to avoid separation from its lands, the determination of the principal water-shed, &c. Map being on a large scale, deviations need not be anticipated, but to decide small changes it seems to be desirable, in order to avoid continual reference from distant parts of Asia Minor, to have power of deciding by a majority of votes. Turk took same view. Russian Commissioner opposed, saying that every trifling difference must be referred to Government. Hence my suggestion to bring pressure upon him through Russian Ambassador at London.

No. 207.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 287.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 152 of the 29th ultimo, reporting the objections raised by M. de Jomini to the proposal that Aleko Pasha, on his entry into the Government of Eastern Roumelia, should be accompanied by the European Commission.

The observations which your Excellency addressed to Baron Jomini in reply have my entire concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 208.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 227.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1879.*

IT seems to Her Majesty's Government to be desirable that the Commission of which you are a member should return to Philippopolis to watch the introduction of the new institutions which are to replace the present provisional administration of Eastern Roumelia, and to assist with their advice the new Turkish Governor-General, whose installation should now take place without delay. This proposal has received the assent of the several Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have accordingly to instruct you to take what steps may seem to you most advisable to procure the adoption by your colleagues of a resolution that the Commission should accompany or precede Aleko Pasha to Philippopolis.

The duty with which it is desired principally to charge the Commission is that of advising the Governor-General, in the event of his considering it necessary to summon Turkish troops into the interior of the province for the purpose of maintaining order or asserting the Sultan's authority. You are further authorized to propose, if you think it expedient, that the Commission should express its willingness to afford to the Governor-General the benefit of its advice upon other subjects on which he may wish to consult them. It must, however, be understood beforehand that, in regard both to the question of summoning the troops and to any other functions which the Commission may accept, the vote of the majority should be held to decide the question, and that unanimity should not be required; otherwise the presence of the Commission may become a mere hindrance to the transaction of all business in which it is concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 209.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 267.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 180A of the 25th ultimo, in which you report that M. Depretis had inquired whether Her Majesty's Government were not of opinion that the time had arrived when the Roumanian Government should be recognized in the same formal manner as the Servian Government had been. Your Excellency will be good enough to state to M. Depretis that the British Agent is now on his way home from Bucharest, and that Her Majesty's Government would wish to consult him before taking the step in question, but that the Italian Government shall be informed whenever they decide upon the formal recognition of Roumania.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 210.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, forwarding copies of notes which Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has exchanged with Prince Gortchacow, conveying the reciprocal assurances made by the two Governments to one another in regard to Eastern Roumelia.

In accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I have this day informed the Porte of this exchange of notes, and have communicated copies of them to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 211.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No 352.)

Constantinople, April 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a letter from the Reverend Mr. Wood, writing on behalf of the American missionaries at Constantinople, inclosing a Report from the officers of the American Evangelical community in Amasia, in which a lamentable account is given of the ill-treatment to which certain Christian emigrants from Soukoom-Kaleh are stated to have been subjected in that district.

I have lost no time in bringing this Report to the knowledge of the Porte, and have urged that a strict inquiry be made into its truth. I have also requested that telegraphic orders may be at once sent to insure the restoration to liberty of the Christians retained as slaves, and to prevent the further persecution of these unfortunate people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 211.

The Rev. G. Wood to Mr. Malet.

Constantinople (Bible House, Stamboul), April 24, 1879.

Sir,

IN behalf of the American missionaries resident in Constantinople, I beg to be allowed to ask your Excellency's attention to a statement sent to us in Armenian by the preacher and officers of the Armenian community in Amasia, a translation of which is herewith inclosed.

From this it appears that a considerable number of persons among the refugees from the Soukoom-Kaleh district, claiming to be Christians, and desiring to reside in Christian instead of Mahommedan villages, have been sold and treated as slaves, and made the victims of cruelties extremely barbarous and revolting. The narrative implicates the Governor of Amasia, the Judge of the Mussulman Court, and other official functionaries, as well as certain Beys, in conduct contrary to law and natural right, such that the report of it, if it is left uncorrected and unredressed, must be damaging to the good name and the interests of the Turkish Government.

This statement has come to us through our associates at Marsovan. In forwarding it they state that the enslaved are probably of the Abazees.

They also write as follows:—"Should the Central Government be incited, by the intercession of the British Embassy, to make investigation of these doings, we would earnestly request that endeavour be also at the same time made to check the highway robberies, pillage, and murders which are being carried on in all this region by armed Circassians. The instances are so many, so flagrant, and so notorious, that the silence of all Europe in regard to them is truly surprising."

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. W. WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 211.

Protestant Armenians of Amasia to Constantinople Missionaries.

Amasia, March 31, 1879.

(Translation.)

To the worthily honoured Missionaries at Constantinople—

IT is known to you that in the late war the Osmanli forces captured Soukoom-Kaleh, and that when these withdrew many of the inhabitants of that region emigrated to Turkish territory. The greater portion were distributed in towns along the sea-coast, and several thousands of them in the district of Amasia. Their names were registered for the purpose of furnishing them with bread; when, however, Christian names were given they were told that there was no bread for Christians. "Give Mahommedan names," it was said, "that we may give you bread." Being thus forced, these Christians replied, "Write what you will," while, at the same time, resident Christians found themselves unable to get help to them.

When the war ended, and places for permanent settlement were to be determined,

a company of refugees came forward and said, "We are Christians, and we pray that we may be sent to places inhabited by Christians." Then a number of the emigrants, men of influence, and some having connection with the Government, rose up, and declaring, "These are not Christians, they are our slaves," they began to tear away the child from his father, the daughter from her mother, and the wife from her husband, and sold them for small sums. On this the sufferers, under the Kaïmakam of Vezir-Keupru, had recourse to the Greek Metropolitan at Samsoun. The Bishop, Sophronius, sent for the officials at this place, an appeal remonstrating against these barbarities as contrary to law and natural right, and pleading that said refugees might be allowed to go to Christian villages and have their children restored to them. This document being committed to Dr. Tenmiah, the Protestant member of the Idare Council, was by him put into the hands of the Vice-Governor, the Mutessarif being absent from Amasia. This official sent an order to the Kaïmakam of Vezir-Keupru to locate those refugees in Christian villages, and to secure to the parents the restoration of the children who had been sold. The Kaïmakam executed the order in respect to the location of the refugees, but did nothing in regard to restoring the children.

We understand that when the Mutessarif went to Iladig, Halil Bey and Shakin Bey, who were the sellers of the refugees, told him of the order sent to the Kaïmakam. He directed them to collect them, and bring them to Amasia, whither he was going. The Beys accordingly went to Vezir-Keupru, and with their confederate, Aslan Bey, they asked the Kaïmakam that he recall the refugees who had gone to Christian villages and send them with them to Amasia. The Kaïmakam collected about thirty persons, men, women, and children, and, showing no pity for their miserable condition, he sent them, under guard, naked and barefoot, a distance of twelve hours on a very cold and snowy day. Several of the women, who were pregnant, unable to endure the hardships of the journey, fell out of the company at villages on the way from whom, after the lapse of twenty days, we have no tidings.

When the Beys arrived they gave the Governor (Mutessarif) a girl of 12 years, saying, "These are our slaves and they are not Christians." Two days later he dismissed the Beys and they went trusting in him.

These so-called slaves, on their arrival, applied to the German Consul for protection, affirming that they were Christians. The Consul made representations to the Governor, to which the latter replied, "This matter is too high for me: it must go to the Vali; I will write to him." He said that their masters were bad men, and he found their influence with the Turks endangering a popular commotion. The same day he committed the so-called slaves to prison, without any examination of them, and they were put into a room of the part occupied by criminals.

When he was interrogated on the part of the Greeks and the Protestants why he had imprisoned them, the Governor replied as above. They urged vehemently the futility of these pretensions, and charged him with favouring the Beys because of the present to him of a girl, to which he answered, "Let them (the prisoners) be judged with the Beys in the Court of the 'Davi.'" But seeing that the presiding Judge in that Court had bought a woman and a girl of the Beys for 5,000 piastres in caimé, is an impartial trial to be expected there? They have not yet been brought to trial, and for twenty days no Christian has been allowed to approach the imprisoned persons to communicate with and comfort them.

Two days ago (27th March) a woman, by the name of Sophia, being seized with pains of child-birth, earnestly begged, for the sake of humanity and decency, to be taken from that mixed company, but a deaf ear was turned to her entreaties. Lying on the ground without a bed, and with no wrappings, she gave birth to a child, which, being left naked, died the same day in the prison, and the mother fell into a condition of extreme illness and misery. The prisoners begged that the dead child might be given to Christians for burial. This the Chief of the Police forbad. The Christians besought the Pasha, but he gave no attention to the matter. Finally the "Binbashi" (Colonel) informed him that a priest was in waiting to take the body; and he asked and received authority to deliver it to Mahommedans for interment.

Moosa Pasha, the Commander of the military forces here, learning these revolting facts, moved with pity and indignation, went into the Idaré Council and said, "I will appeal everywhere against these atrocities, and I surely believe that you will not go unpunished." To this the Judge replied, "We have done what is in accordance with the Sheriat, and if we are punished for it we will bear it willingly."

To-day, we know not for what reason, these Christian so-called slaves have been brought out of prison, and put into a khan adjoining the Palace, under orders not to go out of the city.

This is a true and certain history of the dreadful outrages perpetrated upon these Christians, which we desire to make known to your Worthinesses, and of which we have given information to the missionaries in Marsivan. Is it possible to think of them without the most painful emotions and desire for redress, if such can possibly be secured? We therefore pray you, for the sake of humanity and for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, to use your best endeavours to get protection for these poor helpless victims of oppression by means of an Ambassadorial intervention in their behalf.

(Signed) AVEDIO K. ARADARIAN, *Preacher to the Evangelical Community in Amasia.*

(And in behalf of the Council of the Protestant Community),
DR. NISHAN ALTAMIAN.
BARSAM MARIISSAGIAN.
ASDVODZADOOR MAHLIAN.
ABRAHAM HAGOPIAN, *Secretary.*

No. 212.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 353.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a communication which has been made to me by the Porte, stating that, in consequence of the incessant incursions of Bulgarian insurgents, it has been deemed necessary to arm the Mussulmans near Nevrokop, Melnik, and Petrich, in the Vilayet of Salonica, and to form a sufficient number of battalions of auxiliary troops of reserve, under the orders of officers selected from the honest and respectable inhabitants of the district.

I thought it my duty to speak yesterday on the subject to the Grand Vizier, and to warn his Highness of the danger of its being supposed that the Porte was again having recourse to the service of Bashi-Bazouks. His Highness informed me, however, that the force in question would not consist of Bashi-Bazouks, but of a sort of local militia, whose organization had been carefully matured.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Note Verbale.

(Traduction.)

VU les invasions incessantes des insurgés Bulgares, il a été jugé nécessaire d'armer de suite la population Musulmane se trouvant dans les environs de Nevrocop, Mélénik, et Pétrich, et pour mettre un terme aux cruautés des insurgés, qui augmentent de nombre dans ces parages, il a été décidé de former une quantité suffisante de bataillons de troupes auxiliaires de réserve, qui seront dévisés en plusieurs détachements et placés sous les ordres d'officiers choisis parmi les gens respectables et honnêtes de la localité, conformément au règlement élaboré, et à l'Iradé Impérial émané à cet effet. Dix mille fusils ont été expédiés dans le Vilayet de Salonique.

No. 213.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 354.)

Pera, April 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the Convention between Austria and Turkey respecting the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by the former, which was signed here by the Plenipotentiaries of the respective Powers on the 21st instant, as well as of the Declaration made at the same time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Convention between Austria-Hungary and Turkey respecting the Occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary. Signed at Constantinople, April 21, 1879.

LES Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie s'étant réservé de s'entendre sur les détails de l'occupation stipulée par l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin, et le fait de l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine ne portant pas atteinte aux droits de souveraineté de Sa Majesté le Sultan sur ces provinces, les deux Gouvernements sont tombés d'accord sur les points qui suivent :—

ARTICLE I.

L'administration de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine sera exercée conformément à l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin par l'Autriche-Hongrie; toutefois le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois n'objecte pas à conserver tous ceux des fonctionnaires actuels qui posséderaient les aptitudes nécessaires pour la bonne administration de leur emploi. En cas de remplacement le choix du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois porterait de préférence sur les personnes originaires de ces provinces.

ARTICLE II.

La liberté et la pratique extérieure de tous les cultes existants sont assurées aux personnes habitant ou séjournant en Bosnie et en Herzégovine. Notamment pleine liberté est assurée aux Musulmans dans leurs rapports avec leurs chefs spirituels.

Les Commandants des troupes de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi et les autorités administratives continueront à veiller avec le plus grand soin à ce qu'il ne soit porté aucune atteinte aux mœurs, à l'honneur, à la liberté du culte, à la sécurité des personnes et des propriétés des Musulmans. Toute agression contre les Musulmans, leurs biens, ou leur religion sera sévèrement punie.

Le nom de Sa Majesté le Sultan continuera à être prononcé dans les prières publiques selon l'usage des Musulmans comme par le passé. En tant qu'il serait d'usage de hisser le drapeau sur les minarets, cet usage sera respecté.

ARTICLE III.

Les revenus de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine seront affectés exclusivement à leurs besoins, leur administration, et les améliorations jugées nécessaires.

ARTICLE IV.

Les monnaies Ottomanes effectives continueront à avoir libre cours en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

ARTICLE V.

La Sublime Porte disposera à sa guise du matériel de guerre et autres objets appartenant au Gouvernement Ottoman, et qui se trouvaient dans les places fortes ou dans les garnisons. A cet effet il sera dressé des inventaires avec l'intervention de Commissaires des deux Gouvernements.

ARTICLE VI.

Le traitement des Bosniaques et des Herzégoviniens séjournant ou de passage de Turquie sera réglée ultérieurement par un arrangement spécial.

ARTICLE VII.

Pour atteindre dans un intérêt commun le but politique et militaire que l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin concernant le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar a en vue, les deux Gouvernements ont résolu de régler dès à présent les modalités dans lesquelles il sera procédé à son exécution.

A cet effet le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi s'engage à donner avis préalable au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan de l'époque où l'entrée des troupes Impériales et Royales devra s'effectuer.

Afin de prévenir tout délai inutile, les deux Gouvernements s'engagent dès aujourd'hui, chacun en ce qui le concerne, à munir le cas échéant, sans retard leurs autorités et Commandants respectifs des pleins pouvoirs nécessaires pour régler directement entre eux les questions se rattachant à la subsistance des troupes Impériales et Royales ainsi qu'à leur installation et autres détails y relatifs. Il est d'ailleurs entendu que tous les frais qui seraient occasionnés de ce chef resteront à la charge du Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie.

ARTICLE VIII.

L'entrée des troupes de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi dans le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar ne portera aucune entrave au fonctionnement des autorités administratives, judiciaires ou financière Ottomanes de tout ordre, qui continueront à s'exercer comme par le passé sous les ordres exclusifs et directs de la Sublime Porte.

ARTICLE IX.

Si la Sublime Porte désire maintenir les garnisons même sur les points du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar où les troupes Austro-Hongroises ont garnison, aucun obstacle n'y sera apporté. Il est entendu que l'emploi de troupes irrégulières doit être exclu dans toute l'étendue du sandjak. Les troupes des deux Puissances seront placées sur un pied de parfaite égalité en ce qui concerne leur nombre et les avantages militaires et la liberté de leurs mouvements.

ARTICLE X.

Il est entendu toutefois que la faculté pour l'Autriche-Hongrie d'entretenir sur les points où les troupes doivent tenir garnison, conformément à l'Article VII, des troupes en nombre suffisant selon le besoin des circonstances ne doit pas être restreinte par ces dispositions.

Il est entendu que l'Autriche-Hongrie dans les circonstances actuelles et tout en se réservant tous ses droits découlant de l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin, a l'intention de ne placer des garnisons que dans quelques endroits situés sur le Lim, entre les frontières de la Serbie et du Monténégro. Ces endroits seraient les suivants : Priboi, Pripolje, Bjelopolje. Le nombre des troupes destinées actuellement au service de ces garnisons sera limité au strict nécessaire et ne dépassera pas le chiffre de 4,000 à 5,000 hommes. Si par suite de circonstances la nécessité se présentait de placer des garnisons dans d'autres points, il sera procédé de part et d'autre dans le sens des dispositions de l'Article VII, sauf si le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie avait l'intention de placer des troupes sur des points du Balkan de Plagosna, auquel cas il y aura lieu de s'entendre directement avec la Sublime Porte.

No. 214.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 358.)

My Lord, *Pera, April 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of report communicated to me by the Porte. It bears no date, but I received it on the 26th instant. It is apparently a reply of Kiamil Pasha, late Governor-General of Aleppo, to various charges against him. It is conceived in the same spirit of general denial as that which I have previously had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch No. 322 of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 214.

Report communicated to Mr. Malet by the Sublime Porte.

(Extrait.)

L'AFFAIRE d'assassinat qui aurait donné le signal de la révolte de Zeitoun n'a pas été jugée, comme on le croit, par le Conseil Musulman de Marach, mais bien par le "Temyizi Houkouk" composé de membres Musulmans et Chrétiens. Deux

individus, dont l'un Musulman et l'autre Chrétien, convaincus d'être les auteurs de ce crime, ont été déclarés coupables par un jugement qui, confirmé par le "Temyiz" du vilayet, a été soumis au Ministère de la Justice.

L'assertion d'après laquelle le Conseil de Marach aurait été acheté par Daoud Effendi est une pure calomnie. Si les coupables ont été mis en liberté à titre provisoire et sous caution, il faut en rechercher la cause dans les nécessités du moment, nécessités auxquelles est venu se joindre le retard que le Ministère de la Justice a mis à intimer ses ordres.

On se plaint de ce que pendant les événements de la guerre, Zeitoun avait eu à fournir à l'armée Impériale quelques chevaux et un peu d'argent. Mais cette contribution était aussi spontanée à Zeitoun que partout ailleurs. Les chevaux ont été, du reste, rendus à leurs propriétaires.

Pour ce qui est de l'incendie qui a détruit la Mosquée de Zeitoun et de la démolition du konak, on connaît les auteurs de ce double méfait; ce sont les habitants de Zeitoun eux-mêmes qui les ont dénoncés.

On a tort de croire que le mouvement insurrectionnel repose uniquement sur ces données ou sur les bruits répandus par les Catholiques; il existe des faits plus palpables; attaque à main-armée dirigée par une bande de 200 à 300 hommes contre les villages Musulmans, pillage des caravanes, massacre d'hommes et de femmes, tels sont les méfaits qui ont déterminé l'envoi de troupes à Zeitoun; encore ces dernières se sont-elles gardées de sévir contre les insurgés qui offraient leur démission, et ont elles consacré plutôt leurs efforts à la restitution des objets enlevés à leurs propriétaires. La répression des troubles a eu lieu dans des conditions absolument différentes de celles dans lesquelles on se plaît à la présenter. Pendant que les révoltés se livraient à des excès de toute sorte, alors que la Sublime Porte ordonnait l'adoption des mesures les plus sévères, le Gouverneur-Général a pris soin d'entourer son action de toutes les garanties de modération possibles. Témoin les instuctions données à cet effet au Commandant des troupes d'expédition.

Lors de son voyage à Zeitoun, Kiamil Pacha y a trouvé une cinquantaine de prisonniers, dont la plupart rentraient le soir chez eux à condition de se rendre au camp chaque fois que leur présence était requise.

Sur les instances des plaignants, parmi lesquels on voyait plusieurs tenant en main des habits tachés de sang, une Commission a été instituée sous la présidence du Gouverneur de Marach, à l'effet de juger les procès criminels, ainsi que les demandes en restitution d'objets. Un Protestant, un Catholique, et trois Arméniens ont été appelés à faire partie de cette Commission. Ils connaissent tous le Turc; il en est même qui ne savent pas l'Arménien autant que le Turc. La liberté la plus complète a été assurée à leurs délibérations; le procès-verbal de chaque séance était lu et approuvé avec ou sans observations dans la séance suivante, en dehors de toute intervention de Kiamil Pacha.

Celui-ci rend justice à l'équité et à la droiture des membres dont l'un a agi impartialement même envers son frère, compromis dans l'insurrection en l'amenant à se dessaisir des objets qu'il avait enlevés. Cet exemple a été suivi par deux autres membres qui se sont trouvés dans le cas de juger leurs propres parents.

Les épouses d'insurgés qui ont été envoyées à Alep étaient au nombre de huit. Leur transport n'a été décidé que sur l'avis d'Arméniens notables. Il n'y a rien de vrai dans les assertions suivant lesquelles des perquisitions domiciliaires auraient été opérées aux dépens de ces femmes.

On n'a point entendu parler des voies de fait auxquels Erik Oglou Artin Effendi se serait livré contre une femme.

La mort d'une patiente en route est également dénuée de fondement.

Durant le cours de son séjour à Zeitoun, Kiamil Pacha n'a pas eu le temps de s'occuper d'encaissements. C'est d'Alep qu'il faisait venir les provisions de bouche de l'armée. Non-seulement Zeitoun n'a rien fourni gratuitement, mais encore les troupes y ont dû laisser, lors de leur départ, une assez grande quantité de vivres faute de moyens de transport.

Aucun procès qu'on sache n'a été intenté par les Chrétiens aux Musulmans. Ce qui a été avancé à ce sujet pas plus que le transport du corps d'un assassiné à la tente de Kiamil Pacha ne reposent sur aucun fondement.

Ce fonctionnaire repousse surtout avec indignation l'assertion d'après laquelle il aurait pendant son séjour à Zeitoun exigé 5 livres à 10 livres pour la mise en liberté de chacun des quarante détenus. Kiamil Pacha demande à être jugé, prêt à quitter le service public si sa culpabilité était prouvée. Dans le cas contraire, il insiste à ce que le Consul Anglais soit puni comme calomniateur. C'est sur le Rapport de la

Commission *ad hoc* qu'on a acquitté une cinquantaine de prisonniers, tous excessivement pauvres.

Les accusations lancées contre les troupes Impériales sont de pures calomnies.

No. 215.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 359. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY, the Austrian Ambassador, informed me on the 25th instant that since the signature of the Convention the Sultan had sent him pressing messages to request that he would cancel the Secret Article appended to it.

This Secret Article had originally been suggested by a desire to facilitate negotiations. It is a mutual engagement to the effect that, in case of external aggression on the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, the forces of Austria and Turkey shall combine to repel it.

Count Zichy stated that it was quite impossible for him to accede to the Sultan's request, but that he would do his best at home to meet His Majesty's wishes; and that, as the Article had been proposed uniquely to benefit the Porte, and imposed an onerous obligation on Austria, he did not doubt that his Government would readily accept the proposal. His Excellency did not conceal from me, however, that the desire of the Sultan showed a deep-seated suspicion of Austria, which was exceedingly wounding, and though he thought his Government would be too glad to be relieved of the Secret Article, the disposition which led to the request could not but have a bad effect on their friendly disposition towards the Porte.

Neither Carathéodory Pasha nor the Grand Vizier pretended to explain His Majesty's views regarding the Article which led him to make so singular a request; but Carathéodory Pasha told the Ambassador that His Majesty manifested the greatest anxiety on the subject, and that he had not been able to sleep since the signing of the Convention.

The Minister went on to say that the fall of the Grand Vizier and his own were the least of the evils which might result from a refusal of Austria to cancel the Secret Article. The Sultan seemed determined, in case it were maintained, to repudiate the whole Convention by a Circular to his Representatives abroad. I understood, at first, that His Majesty proposed to protest only against the Secret Article, and I telegraphed in that sense to your Lordship, but I learnt in a subsequent conversation that His Majesty designed to repudiate the Treaty itself.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, finding that I knew about the Secret Article, has since spoken to me on the subject, and has assured me that he cannot divine the motives of His Majesty's extraordinary action with regard to it. Nothing would have been easier at the time of signing the Convention than to leave the Secret Article unsigned, as he knew for a fact that Count Zichy would have been perfectly ready to do so. It was only on the day afterwards that the Sultan had sent for the Grand Vizier, and had told him that at all hazards he insisted on the Article being cancelled. His Excellency, on finding that His Majesty was so deeply moved on the subject, had explained that Count Zichy could not of himself cancel it, but that there could be little difficulty in persuading the Austrian Government to do so, as it was to their interest that the engagement should not exist.

His Excellency then said to me, very confidentially, that as soon as the answer came from Vienna he himself proposed to resign, as he could not, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, give his acquiescence to a measure which he considered in the highest degree injurious to the interests of the Porte, and that it was necessary that the Sultan should learn that he could not treat the acts of his Minister for Foreign Affairs in such a manner without destroying the confidence reposed in the Minister by foreign Powers, and thus rendering his position untenable.

His Excellency, however, begged me to keep his intention an absolute secret between himself and me, as were the Grand Vizier to become aware of it he would do his best to frustrate it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 216.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 362.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Assim Pasha and Ahro Effendi, Turkish Commissioners for Eastern Roumelia, presented the Constitution, which has been drawn up by the International Commission for that province, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Monday, the 28th instant. Prince Labanoff and I happened to be in the room at the moment, and we congratulated the Turkish Commissioners on the termination of this very important work.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 217.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 363. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

RUSTEM PASHA came to me on the 27th instant and informed me that Count de Montholon, the French Chargé d'Affaires, had told him that he had, under instructions from his Government, informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the French Government were anxious that his Excellency should not be allowed to return to his post of Governor-General of the Lebanon. The Chargé d'Affaires had added to Rustem Pasha that if his Excellency would himself do nothing to frustrate the wish of the French Government they, on their part, would attempt to obtain for him a nomination to some high post, such, for instance, as Ambassador at Rome.

Rustem Pasha was much distressed at this intelligence, as he considers that his character is at stake, and that it will be ruined if, through the intrigues and slanders of which he has been the victim, his return to the Lebanon should be prevented.

The action of the French Government in this instance is certainly ungenerous, as it was owing to the advice of M. Fournier and the French Consul at Beyrout that he exiled Bishop Bistani, and thereby brought down upon himself the torrent of invective and intrigue which has carried with it the clerical party in France, and thereby imposed upon the French Government apparently the necessity of endeavouring to prevent the Pasha's return.

But there are questions involved in his return which render it necessary that our own action in the matter should be carefully considered. M. Fournier has of late openly and with good effect used his influence in favour of Roman Catholic Christians in Turkey. Through his influence Mousignor Kupelian, Patriarch of the Catholic Armenians, has submitted to the Church of Rome, through his influence a "Berat" was sent to the Patriarch of the Syrian Catholics at Mosul, through his influence the possibility of the Bulgarian Exarch's union to the Church of Rome has been mooted, and in every instance the inducement held out is the acquisition of a title to the protection of France.

The deplorable position of the Christian populations of Turkey make them turn with longing eyes to any Power which they think will befriend them in their need. The Christians of Asia Minor turned to us like sunflowers to the sun after the Convention of the 4th June, but by degrees they have been brought to fear, through the absence of any practical result to them of that Convention, that this sun is setting, and as darkness draws on they waver in their allegiance. They see the practical benefit of the protection of France in the discomfiture of the Anti-Hassounists, who form the intelligent portion of the Catholic Armenian community; they see that France can obtain Berats for Patriarchs whom it favours, and they will now learn that France alone is exerting its influence to prevent the return of Rustem Pasha, because he has placed himself in opposition to the overweening pretensions of the Catholic clergy in the Lebanon. If France is again successful, whole communities may begin to think that their safety lies in union to the Church of Rome, and if in the future France emerges from its inability to push its policy by force of arms, it may find a large portion of the Christian population of Turkey in Asia awaiting its active support as protectress of all who have adopted the Catholic faith—for the faith of Christians

is too keenly allied to interest in the last to prevent the fear that the movement once set going may not spread to the Gregorian Armenians.

The Russian Ambassador has told me that he feels it a point of delicacy, after depriving Rustem Pasha of the Governor-Generalship of Eastern Roumelia, to support him in returning to the Lebanon, and he has spoken in this sense to the Porte.

I presume that Germany would join Russia and us if we chose to recommend it, and I cannot help supposing that the Porte in its own interest would be too glad to resist the pretensions of France in favour of the Catholics, if she were assisted in her resistance by the other Powers. I will, however, inquire of the Grand Vizier his views on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 218.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 364.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas relative to Bulgarian revolutionary proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 218.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Bourgas, April* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the Bulgarian Revolutionary Proclamation mentioned in my despatch of the 14th April, together with a translation. The paper in question has been posted in all the towns and in almost every village of the interior, at least, up to Slimnia and Yamboli, and appears to have created considerable enthusiasm amongst those Bulgarians who were either able to read it, or who heard it read by others. Bourgas is the only sea-coast town in which it was posted on the walls, but at Achialo the Bulgarian Governor, Dimitri Bracaloff, took a copy from his pocket and read it aloud to a crowded audience in a café, ending by remarking, "We shall give the Turks a good beating."

As an example of the enthusiasm I have spoken of, I may mention the following attacks upon Mussulman villages of this sandjak, all of which are of a date later than the 14th April:—

At Yeni Mahallé, in the Caza of Aïdos, some fifty sheep were stolen by armed Bulgarians, who fired at random into the village, killing Hadji Hassan, of the village of Marafta (Aïdos Caza), who was then a guest there. The inhabitants abandoned their village, and are now sheltered at Marafta and Kamtchyk-Déré.

At Arnaout Keui (Caza of Achialo) a straw shed was burnt during one of several attacks on the village. At Abderrasak a straw shed was burnt, the village attacked four times, several houses broken into, and the inhabitants are now emigrating.

At Chimali two houses were broken into and pillaged. At Kiupekli the house of Hadji Oglou Mehmet was broken into and plundered, he and his wife were burnt on the back and on the neck with red-hot irons in order to extort money, and the woman received a blow from a stick, which knocked out several of her teeth. At Nadirkeui the house of Emroullah Aga was broken into and robbed.

The village of Uhtauli was attacked by Bulgarians, armed, as usual, with Russian rifles, four or five houses were burnt, and four men are reported (by Bulgar zaptiehs) as having been killed. Yesterday the Bulgarian Governor of Aïdos (formerly schoolmaster in that town) went to the village to inquire into this affair.

These attacks are always made at night; a number of shots are fired in the air or over the village, and then, whilst the Turkish villagers run to one spot, some house on the edge of the village is plundered. I am told by persons, on whose word I can rely, that in the Turkish Balkan, or in that part of the Balkan where the Turkish population is still compact, rifle shots, fired by Bulgarians, are literally incessant from dark

till dawn. I believe that the general idea is rather to frighten the Mussulmans into leaving the country than to do them harm otherwise, but that the bad characters amongst the Bulgars (who unfortunately number many such amongst them) take the opportunity to rob and pillage.

With the exception of Arnaout Keui all these outrages have taken place in the Caza of Aïdos, the Bulgarian Governor contenting himself, in answer to any complaints made by the Turkish sufferers, with one stereotyped answer: "Don't be afraid, there is no harm done; perhaps you have bad characters amongst you; send them away, and we shall all get on well together."

As, from my personal knowledge of the men from whom I received the above-mentioned details, I am able to guarantee their accuracy, I spoke to Mr. N. Hartwig, Russian Vice-Consul here, on the subject, and that gentleman has promised me to telegraph to-day to the Governor of Slimnia requesting him to take the necessary measures for preventing any further excesses on the part of the Bulgarians.

I should add that the authorities of Aïdos have distributed a few rifles amongst the Mussulman villages, but never more than three to one village, whilst the cartridges were counted, and the Turks cautioned that they must never, even if attacked, fire a shot unless one of themselves was first shot by a Bulgarian.

From Slimnia I learn that, on the 19th instant, a telegram was received from General Skobeleff, then at Kyzanlik, inspecting the volunteers of that district, ordering the gymnastic clubs of the three Cazas of Yamboli, Yeni-Zaghra, and Slimnia to assemble at the latter town on the following day to be reviewed by him. These amounted to 8,500 in number, and the present estimate by Bulgarians of the number of peasants, besides the militia, actually armed and being drilled in Eastern Roumelia, is 80,000.

Further sums of money for the purposes of the revolution are being requisitioned in every caza. This town, which has 150 volunteers enrolled, is assessed at 350 Imperial pols.

To-day there was a meeting of Bulgarians in their church here, at which it was decided to select ten women to act as sisters of charity, hospital nurses, &c., and a general fabrication of lint and bandages was ordered in the Bulgarian houses.

A shore-boat has been told off to watch at night for the appearance in the bay of any suspicious craft. This measure is the result of an absurd report which reached the Governor of Slimnia, to the effect that an English steamer had landed at Cape Eminch arms and ammunition for the Turkish population.

Bulgarian refugees from the Cazas of Kirk-Kilissé, Adrianople, &c., are now being settled in the deserted Mussulman villages on the frontier line of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, from Guenziki on the sea-coast to Erketch and Soudjoulou in the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 218.

Appeal to the Bulgarian Nation.

(Translation.)
Brethren,

ON the frontiers of our martyred fatherland are massed thousands on thousands of Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, hungry and naked themselves, but thirsting for blood, for vengeance, and for rapine.

Six weeks more, and they will occupy the passes of the Balkans—those Balkans which Europe has forced upon us as a barrier to divide us from our brethren—and they will enter our land, bringing fire and destruction in their train.

Six weeks more, and the hordes of Asia, led by pashas and fadis, by muftis and zaptiehs, will roll like a deluge over our country, and again commence to plunder and oppress the people, whose life-blood they have drunk during five centuries, and whom the last few years had rendered powerless.

Six weeks more, and the liberty which we now enjoy, a liberty purchased by such sufferings and such sorrow, and acquired at the cost of such immense sacrifice, will be in danger of being drowned in blood and desolation, and again transformed into the yoke which has weighed upon us for 500 years.

Six weeks more, and we shall touch upon the period of the restoration of Turkish rule, which to us is death.

Six weeks more, and we shall be face to face with the question: Life or death?

When these six weeks have passed, then will begin the dreadful struggle, the conflict for our faith, the fight for our existence.

Brethren, are we prepared for this struggle?

Are we all of us ready with the necessary calm to encounter this struggle, so terrible and so near at hand? are we prepared to encounter and hurl back the arrogance of those Asiatic hordes, who come to make merry on the grave of our liberty and on the ashes of our homes?

When two months have passed we shall be willing to have sacrificed our property, our lives; but, alas! it will be too late.

Brethren, our freedom is in our own hands; but it depends on our preparations for what is to come.

If we demand our liberty, if we reject a foreign master, we must give all, sacrifice all, and use every means we possess to attain our ends.

Accursed be he—in the name of the martyrs whose bones are mouldering under the ruins of Batak and Zagra, in the name of the thousands of our soldiers who have laid down their lives for our freedom—accursed be he who stands aloof, who trembles at the thought of what is to come, who in the hour of battle shall say: "I am not ready."

Brethren, the day approaches!

Let that day find us united as one man, ready to shed our blood and to die to the last man; let us prove to the universe that we are not a flock of sheep, but a nation, and that we know only too well what it would be to allow the Turks to return and to act like men possessed by fiends.

On the day when we are battling for our liberty against its enemies—on that day will resound as one voice from ninety millions of Slavs the cry of fraternal compassion, the cry of help; and those who are now hostile will on that day rise in arms against the fantastic decision of the moment.

[The Treaty of Berlin is alluded to by this last phrase.]

Brethren, our fate is in our own hands.

Before God, before the memory of our martyrs who died for us, before posterity and history, before the peoples of the Slavonic race, and before humanity, let none be able to reproach us with having lost courage, and allowing to pass an opportunity which, alas! will never return.

March 1879.

No. 219.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 365.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., announcing his arrival at Aleppo, and reporting upon the state of affairs there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Aleppo, April* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived here on the 12th, having travelled up from Alexandretta with the Imperial Commissioners. I have, in accordance with your written instructions to me, shown them to Mr. Henderson. On the 12th the Vali telegraphed to the Acting-Governor of Marasch to take a house for the Zeitoun prisoners there, and to treat them in as lenient a manner as was consistent with the fact of their being prisoners. The Governor replied that it was not, in his opinion, necessary to remove the prisoners from the prison, whereupon the Vali ordered him to carry out his instructions at once.

The documents relating to the prisoners here, as well as those of those at Marasch, are at the latter place, and have been sent for in order to enable the Commissioners to judge if any prisoners can be released on bail or otherwise.

On the 13th I forwarded you a telegram, of which I inclose a copy, and on receipt of your answer Mr. Henderson communicated it to me.

The Vali had no intention of carrying out the orders unless they were repeated, but was very anxious to have them counter-ordered.

On the 15th the Governor of Marasch reported to him that there would be no occasion to use troops, as Beibek and his band seem inclined to make their submission.

Instructions are now being prepared by the Vali for transmission to Marasch, ordering Husni Effendi, the new Kaïmakam, to proceed to Zeitoun, unaccompanied by military force, and to treat the population in a conciliatory manner. The messenger who takes these instructions is also to take a "Bull" from the Catholicos, enjoining the Zeitounli to go out to welcome the new Governor, and instructing them to remain perfectly tranquil and submissive. Beibek and his band are requested in the same document to make their "act of submission," and to return quietly to their homes. This document further informs the people that their submissive acceptance of the Turkish authorities will in no wise affect the promised examination of their grievances and wrongs. The Commission inform me that on the receipt of the news of the satisfactory reception and instalment of the Kaïmakam they hope to be able to give orders at once for the release of a considerable number (thirty or forty) of the prisoners. On Monday, the 14th, the Firman of the Vali was read, and this ceremony was followed by a discourse from him announcing the object and powers of the Commission. I have the honour to forward a French translation of this, which was given to me by the Commissioners. The discourse will be published in Turkish, in the organ of the vilayet; it is further intended to have 1,000 copies printed in Arabic for distribution in the towns and villages of the district.

The Syrian Patriarch, as "Doyen" of the representatives of the various Christian communities, pronounced a discourse subsequent to that of the Vali, with which the latter and the Commissioners appear much pleased.

The Commissioners profess to be exceedingly pleased at the reception given to them by all classes. The Commissioners inform me that, according to their instructions, their first proceeding must be to institute a Central Commission, to be presided over by themselves, to examine the complaints, grievances, and petitions laid before them, and to formulate the details of the proposed reforms. Preparations for the assembling of this body are being pushed forward, but its institution and initiatory proceedings are expected to detain the Commission here three weeks.

I yesterday urged strongly on the Commissioners the expediency, from very numerous considerations, of as prompt action as possible in the Zeitoun affair. Statistics are also being prepared as to the number of zaptiehs in the province, with details as to character, previous service, &c.

The inefficiency of this service, apart from the insufficiency of numbers, the indifferent character of many of the men, and the inadequacy of their pay, is, in this province, enormously increased, by the fact of a very large number being engaged in the service of escorting the various mails.

The Commissioners yesterday visited the prison, and remained there some hours; a roll was called, and every prisoner passed before them; such as had written petitions were permitted to present them. The Zeitoun prisoners were forty-one in number; two others are in hospital, and one has died since their arrival here; their cells are very small, and much too crowded for hot weather, and are certainly amongst the worst in the prison, but there are others as bad. Their general treatment is, I believe, the same as that of the other prisoners. As, until the sentences are quashed, they are condemned criminals, they have not, as far as I am aware, any other special cause of complaint.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE,

Lieutenant, R.E.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Speech of Ghalib Pasha.

LE Firman Impérial qui vient d'être lu relativement à l'investiture de mes nouvelles fonctions vous a expliqué en termes non équivoques quels sont les ordres et les désirs de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan pour le bonheur et la prospérité de toutes les classes de ses fidèles sujets du Vilayet d'Alep, sans distinction aucune.

Personne d'entre vous n'ignore les intentions généreuses qui animent au plus haut degré notre magnanime Souverain à l'égard des habitants de l'Empire, qui sont tous égaux devant Sa Majesté. Tout ce qui peut contribuer au développement de la prospérité du pays et à la sauvegarde de l'intérêt public est l'objet constant de sa haute sollicitude et de ses efforts persévérants. Ce que Sa Majesté Impériale désire avant tout c'est que les peuples placés sous son égide protectrice puissent jouir à égal titre de tous les avantages de la liberté et d'une bonne justice, et qu'ils puissent vivre aussi heureux et prospères que possible. Les réformes radicales dont notre bien-aimé Souverain vient d'ordonner la mise à exécution pour toutes les provinces de l'Empire, sont destinées, nous l'espérons, avec l'assistance Divine, à assurer la réalisation des intentions de Sa Majesté.

En inaugurant aujourd'hui par la province d'Alep l'exécution de ses réformes, notre auguste Souverain donne une nouvelle preuve de la bienveillance toute particulière qui l'anime à son égard, et de la haute opinion qu'il professe des aptitudes spéciales de ses habitants au progrès moral et matériel. C'est là une distinction précieuse dont vous devez vous estimer particulièrement heureux; et nous ne saurions y répondre autrement que par des souhaits les plus chaleureux pour les jours précieux de Sa Majesté et par un dévouement constant pour son auguste personne.

Je désire à cette occasion vous faire connaître succinctement la haute mission que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a bien voulu confier à son Excellence Mazhar Pasha et à Son Excellence Nourian Effendi, Conseiller d'Etat, qui viennent, en qualité de Commissaires Plénipotentiaires, mettre à exécution dans le Vilayet d'Alep les grandes réformes ci-haut mentionnées.

Appelé à coopérer avec les deux Commissaires Impériaux, dans la limite de nos instructions communes, à la réalisation de cette œuvre importante, je m'estimerai particulièrement heureux de pouvoir mener d'un commun accord cette mission importante à bonne fin.

Il s'agit, tout d'abord, de l'institution d'une Commission composée des personnes possédant toutes les connaissances locales voulues, qui aura à indiquer les vices et les lacunes existant dans l'administration actuelle de la province, ainsi que les besoins locaux.

Toutes les réformes possibles dans la limite des lois en vigueur recevront une application immédiate, de même que celles qui exigeraient une nouvelle disposition législative ou bien la modification ou l'abrogation des lois existantes, seront soumises sans retard aucun à la Sublime Porte.

Leurs Excellences les Commissaires Impériaux ont également reçu le pouvoir d'instituer partout où ils le jugeront nécessaires des Commissions d'Enquête, chargées d'examiner en premier lieu les griefs et les réclamations formulés par les populations contre les fonctionnaires publics et autres. Les Commissaires Impériaux examineront aussi la situation et la composition de tous les Tribunaux Civils (" nizamié ") de la province, et ils procéderont à la réorganisation définitive de ces Cours sur une nouvelle base propre à sauvegarder les droits de tous.

Ils élimineront du personnel de ces Tribunaux les Juges dont ils auront constaté l'insuffisance ou l'inconduite, et ils pourvoiront à leur remplacement par des hommes capables et justes. Les Tribunaux du Chéri feront également l'objet de l'enquête dirigée par les Commissaires Impériaux, qui signaleront à la Sublime Porte les Magistrats de cet ordre, dont la distribution sera jugée nécessaire.

Une autre Commission, instituée également par les Commissaires Impériaux, procédera au remaniement du personnel et du service de police et de gendarmerie de la province sur les bases d'une nouvelle organisation.

Ceux des membres des Conseils Administratifs (" Daré Medjlisi "), dont l'incapacité et les abus de pouvoir auront été établis après enquête, seront révoqués et traduits au besoin devant les Tribunaux, et il sera pourvu à leur remplacement conformément au mode d'élection arrêté en dernier lieu.

Le renvoi immédiat de tous les fonctionnaires de l'Administration et du fisc, reconnus incapables ou capables, et au besoin leur mise en jugement; le remplacement de ces fonctionnaires par des personnes aptes et honnêtes, choisies sur les lieux s'il s'en trouve ou ailleurs; l'examen attentif des modes de répartition et de perception de toutes les redevances fiscales, dans le but de redresser les abus et combler les lacunes, font également partie des pleins pouvoirs conférés aux Commissaires Impériaux.

Les Commissaires Impériaux se rendront partout où ils le jugeront nécessaire dans la province pour entendre les réclamations des populations, et décréteront les mesures nécessaires dans l'intérêt de la justice. Au besoin, ils auront recours à la force militaire, là où elle sera indispensable, pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité public.

Le développement et la propagation de l'instruction publique rentrent également dans le cadre des pouvoirs dont les Commissaires Impériaux sont munis. Ils sont autorisés en même temps à demander au Gouvernement Impérial les sommes supplémentaires jugées nécessaires pour l'exécution de ces réformes, en augmentation des allocations actuelles pour chaque branche de l'Administration Provinciale.

Messieurs les Notables et les Dignitaires d'Alep, et vous, habitants du Vilayet :—

Les importantes questions que je viens d'énumérer ont toutes pour objet, à des degrés différents, le développement de la prospérité et l'avenir de la province. Elles constituent autant de témoignages irrécusables de la sollicitude et de la bienveillance toute particulière du Padichah à l'egard de vous tous.

Demandons au Dieu Tout-Puissant que ces réformes, exécutées sous les auspices de notre bien-aimé Souverain puissent élever notre province au niveau des pays les plus prospères. Leur prix est incalculable; il ne peut être mesuré que par la profondeur de notre reconnaissance. Mais nous ne devons pas perdre de vue que rien ne peut réussir ici-bas sans l'union et la concorde. Je demande et j'exige même qu'en présence des grands problèmes que nous allons essayer de résoudre, et qui doivent nous ramener dans la voie du progrès, et particulièrement dans les questions qui se rattachent à la propagation de l'instruction publique, et à l'exécution de travaux ayant pour objet l'utilité générale du pays, chacun de vous fasse le sacrifice qui lui sera demandé, et que les efforts de tous soient dirigés vers un but commun. Rien ne peut réussir là où la franchise et la loyauté manquent. Chacun de vous, en remplissant fidèlement les devoirs qui lui incombent, aura acquitté sa dette de reconnaissance pour toutes les bontés dont Sa Majesté veut bien nous combler, et il aura, de plus, mérité de la patrie.

Je ne crois pas trop présumer de l'intelligence dont la nature a été si prodigue envers les habitants de ce vilayet, si j'exprime ici le ferme espoir que vous saurez, avant peu, traduire en fait les désirs et les intentions de Sa Majesté le Sultan et de son Gouvernement Impérial à notre égard, et attirer sur vous leur satisfaction.

Que Dieu accorde des jours longs et heureux à notre magnanime Souverain pour le succès de cette grande œuvre, et pour continuer sa haute protection.

Alep, le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Avril*, 1879.

No. 220.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 179.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 27, 1879.

I AM happy to be able to announce to your Lordship that the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia was yesterday signed at Galata-Serai, where the European Commission has held its sittings since its return to Constantinople.

A Declaration was added to it to the effect that the Statute could not be altered without the consent of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin, except in the stipulations expressly reserved in the instrument itself as being within the competency of the Provincial Legislature.

The " Règlements " annexed to the Statute have only the force of provincial laws, and are also subject to provincial legislation.

We were only able to sign one copy yesterday, which was that intended for the Turks, and the immediate delivery of which was necessary for the promulgation of the Firman.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P. S.—I beg to inclose a copy of the 64th Protocol, recording the completion of the Statute, and containing the Declaration above mentioned.

H. D. W.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Protocole No. 64.—Séance du 14 Avril, 1879 (5 Djémazi-ul-Ewel, 1296), au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï, à Constantinople.

LES Commissaires chargés par les Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin d'élaborer l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale ayant terminé l'œuvre qui leur avait été confiée en vertu de l'Article XVIII du dit Traité, se sont réunis le 26 Avril, 1879, à 2 heures de l'après-midi, au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Vice-Consul, Commissaire.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay, Chambellan de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique, Commissaire.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring, Ministre Plénipotentaire, Commissaire ;
M. de Coutouly-Dorset, Consul, Commissaire Adjoint.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, Membre du Parlement, Commissaire.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople, Commissaire.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew, Gentilhomme de la Chambre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, Conseiller de Cour, Consul-Général pour la Roumélie Orientale, Deuxième Commissaire.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Muchir, Sénateur de l'Empire, Premier Commissaire ;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Directeur du Contentieux au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman, Deuxième Commissaire.

Le Protocole de la 63ᵐᵉ séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Après avoir procédé à la seconde lecture du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale et des Annexes à ce document—actes dont ils ont d'avance, dans des conférences privées, arrêté la rédaction définitive—les Commissaires sus-nommés votent à l'unanimité une Déclaration conçue en ces termes :—

"La Commission Européenne chargée d'élaborer l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale déclare que le Statut Organique rédigé par elle pour cette province d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, doit être considéré comme l'œuvre collective des Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin, et qu'il ne pourra en conséquence, lorsque Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan l'aura sanctionné par un Firman et promulgué, être modifié qu'avec l'assentiment des dites Puissances, sauf pour ce qui concerne les Articles appartenant aux Chapitres de la milice et de la gendarmerie, relativement auxquels le Statut décide lui-même, qu'ils sont susceptibles d'être changés par une loi provinciale. En même temps la Commission déclare qu'en élaborant des Règlements destinés à faciliter la prompte application du Statut Organique, elle a entendu imprimer à ces Règlements, qui, avec les Tableaux visés par l'Article 114 du Statut, constituent des Annexes au dit Statut, force de lois provinciales ; et qu'en conséquence il doit être entendu que les dispositions de ces diverses Annexes pourront être modifiées par la législation provinciale."

Les Commissaires décident ensuite d'ajouter au Statut Organique, sous la rubrique "Disposition finale," un Article consacrant le principe proclamé dans leur Déclaration.

Cet Article, qui portera le numéro 195, est ainsi conçu :—

"Art. 195. Le présent Statut ne pourra être modifié qu'à la suite d'une entente entre la Sublime Porte et les autres Puissances signataires du Traité conclu à Berlin en date du 13 Juillet, 1878, sauf pour ce qui concerne les Articles appartenant aux Chapitres XII et XIII, relativement auxquels le Statut décide lui-même qu'ils pourront être changés par une loi provinciale.

"Pourront être modifiés par une loi provinciale les dispositions des Règlements et Tableaux annexés au présent Statut."

Les Commissaires votent ensuite définitivement le Statut ainsi complété ; après quoi ils signent et revêtent du sceau de leurs armes l'instrument officiel de cet Acte et de ses Annexes, ainsi que six copies authentiques du même Acte et de ses Annexes. L'instrument officiel devra rester déposé dans les archives de la Sublime Porte ; les six copies seront remises par les soins du bureau aux Commissaires des autres Puissances.

Après une interruption d'une demi-heure, M. Rozet soumet à la Commission le Protocole de la 64ᵐᵉ séance rédigé par lui. Ce Protocole est adopté.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe la prochaine séance au 28 Avril.

La séance est levée à 7 heures et quart.

(Signed) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

No. 221.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 180.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 172, Confidential, of the 21st instant, I informed your Lordship that the Sultan had desired me to submit to His Imperial Majesty, in a Memorandum, my views on the policy to be adopted in Eastern Roumelia.

I have the honour to inclose the Memorandum so drawn up, which I transmitted to His Imperial Majesty on Friday.

On Thursday morning I mentioned to the Grand Vizier that I was about to send this paper to the Sultan, and shortly recapitulated its contents. His Highness expressed his concurrence in my views, and begged me to furnish him with a copy of the Memorandum, which has been done.

I hope that, in the suggestions thus made to the Sultan, I have been enabled to carry out the views of Her Majesty's Government; but I considered it expedient to establish that the Memorandum was entirely unofficial.

I am very anxious that the Proclamation I have sketched out should be made public at once, if only in Turkish newspapers. I am convinced that it would go far to tranquilize the minds of the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia, and consequently to facilitate the task confided to Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Memorandum for His Majesty the Sultan.

D'APRÈS les ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, j'ai l'honneur de lui soumettre quelques brèves observations sur la situation actuelle de la Roumelie Orientale.

Cette note—toute officieuse, d'après le désir exprimé par Sa Majesté—est le résultat des observations recueillies dans la Turquie d'Europe par un Membre du Parlement Anglais qui désire ardemment le développement et la sécurité de l'Empire Ottoman, ainsi que le bonheur de Sa Majesté Impériale.

La discussion des affaires de la Roumélie Orientale comprend en quelque sorte deux questions qui touchent également les autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe.

Le Traité de Berlin a établi la connexité immédiate de ces questions, en stipulant que les projets de réformes pour les provinces Européennes de l'Empire Ottoman seraient soumis à l'avis de la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale. Il n'est guère possible de séparer ces questions, car on ne peut détacher d'une province de la Turquie d'Europe des éléments de prospérité nationale accordés à une autre province adjacente.

L'Article XIII du Traité de Berlin a établi le principe qui devait diriger les Commissaires Européens.

Il leur était enjoint d'établir sur des bases solides "l'autorité politique et militaire directe de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan dans des conditions d'autonomie administrative."

En confiant cette tâche aux Représentants des plus puissants Etats de l'Europe, c'était indiquer bien clairement que chaque Commissaire apporterait à l'organisation d'une nouvelle forme de gouvernement toute l'expérience puisée dans la gérence des affaires de son propre pays.

Parmi les pays représentés, quatre sont Constitutionnels. La Turquie est Constitutionnelle en théorie, si non en pratique, pour le moment. Bien que la France ait pour gouvernement une République, elle représente pourtant encore le principe Constitutionnel.

C'était donc le devoir des Commissaires représentant en majorité des gouvernements Constitutionnels de donner à leur projet une forme Constitutionnelle, afin d'assurer "l'autorité politique et militaire directe de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan," et en même temps d'écarter des populations tous les justes sujets de mécontentement, et de les placer dans des conditions politiques telles qu'elles ne trouveraient aucun avantage à en désirer d'autres.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, en développant les principes du "self-government" de la manière indiquée par les Commissaires et en se déclarant le Protecteur des libertés ainsi concédées, donnera à ses provinces des priviléges qu'elles n'obtiendraient certainement point si elles étaient annexées à l'Empire de Russie.

Les Slaves ont mis à profit la protection de la Russie pour obtenir ces priviléges; mais le sort de la Pologne leur est trop connu pour qu'ils veuillent volontairement risquer de les perdre.

En établissant les institutions proposées par la Commission et en les étendant aux autres provinces Européennes de son Empire, Sa Majesté le Sultan consoliderait son pouvoir de deux manières:—

1. Il assurerait le bonheur des populations. L'introduction d'institutions libérales amènera nécessairement le développement des ressources naturelles du pays. Les revenus de l'Empire s'accroîtraient, et les habitants des provinces deviendraient en peu de temps des sujets fidèles et des défenseurs résolus d'institutions qui auraient assuré leur securité et développé leur bien-être.

2. Sa Majesté Impériale se concilierait la faveur des Puissances Occidentales, en assimilant autant que possible le système gouvernemental des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, aux institutions qui ont developpé la prospérité nationale des différents Etats Constitutionnels représentées au sein de la Commission.

Je me permets, m'autorisant de la permission qu'a bien voulu m'accorder Sa Majesté, de suggérer que les dispositions bienveillantes dans lesquelles se trouve le Sultan soient portées à la connaissance du public dans le plus bref délai possible.

Le nouveau système devrait être présenté sous les formes les plus conciliantes, les plus pacifiques, et les plus engageantes.

Il serait à désirer qu'une Proclamation soit très-prochainement publiée, qui déclarerait que Sa Majesté est prête à accepter le Statut établi par la Commission,

qu'elle est disposée à l'étendre immédiatement aux autres provinces, qu'elle oublie et pardonne le passé, qu'elle accorde une amnistie complète, et qu'elle est fermement décidée à maintenir les libertés accordées.

Cette Proclamation aurait pour effet de calmer les esprits agités et de les rendre favorables au rétablissement du pouvoir Impérial.

La prolongation des pouvoirs de la Commission pour un temps déterminé serait une garantie qui assurerait la tranquillité pendant la période d'inauguration et de transition.

Il n'est point nécessaire de dire combien une telle position morale et politique, prise par Sa Majesté, serait forte.

En même temps que cette Proclamation serait rendue publique, il serait bon d'adopter et de faire connaître aux populations les mesures proposées par Réouf Pacha, tout au moins pour le présent. Ces mesures consisteraient, je crois, à masser le plus grand nombre possible de troupes à Andrinople, sans pourtant les mettre en contact immédiat avec les populations de la Roumélie Orientale; ce qui du reste pourrait s'effectuer plus tard, en envoyant un corps de troupes à Bourgas, où le ravitaillement s'opérerait par mer, dans des conditions faciles et peu onéreuses.

Lorsque les frontières auraient reçu une délimitation définitive, il serait alors facile d'établir des garnisons dans les points des Balkans qui auraient été choisis, comme étant les plus favorables pour la défense extérieure.

Ces mesures me paraissent avantageuses tant au point de vue politique qu'au point de vue économique.

Constantinople, le 25 Avril, 1879.

(Signé) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 222.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 9.*)

(No. 181.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27*, 1879.

AT our meeting yesterday Assim Pasha informed me that Colonel Vitalis had returned from Philipopolis, and stated to me the circumstances of his journey. These were subsequently confirmed to me by Baron de Ring and by Colonel Vitalis himself who called upon me both yesterday and to-day.

Some weeks ago General Stolipine had invited this gentleman to bring up his wife and children to that town. By this means his Excellency said that Colonel Vitalis would show his confidence in the tranquillity and good intentions of the Bulgarians, and enable His Excellency to pave the way to his assumption of his duties in the militia and gendarmerie by gradually accustoming the minds of the population to his presence.

Consequently, a day or two before my departure Colonel Vitalis arrived at Philippopolis with his family. General Stolipine then told him he was going to Tirnovo, and would arrange matters on his return. When this took place he sent for Colonel Vitalis, asked him why he had not bought his uniform, and proposed at once to instal him.

Some days elapsed, the installation being put off, and at length General Stolipine said, before taking any further step, Colonel Vitalis must sign a paper he would send him as a matter of form. The paper was sent in Russian, and Colonel Vitalis was asked to sign it, when he would at once be placed in command.

The latter gentleman refused to sign until he had obtained a translation.

The paper turned out to be an application to the Governor-General entirely ignoring Colonel Vitalis' appointment by the Sultan, and applying for employment by the Russian authorities in the Roumeliote militia.

This application Colonel Vitalis absolutely refused to sign.

His doing so, he said, would be an insult to the Sultan, who had placed confidence in him; and the Treaty of Berlin, as well as the Statute of the Commission, positively declared that the officers were to be named by the Sultan.

General Stolipine made use of every kind of pressure to induce him to change his determination. Knowing that Colonel Vitalis was not in affluent circumstances, he offered him an advance of money, and assured him that, if his compliance cost him his place, Russia would not desert him, but find him employment in Bulgaria or elsewhere.

On Colonel Vitalis persisting in his refusal, General Stolipine said to him: "Il faut opter entre le Sultan et la Russie."

On this Colonel Vitalis came to Constantinople to obtain instructions.

Colonel Kissiakoff is still in command of the militia and gendarmerie, and Colonel Vitalis would have been placed under his orders had he received his nomination from Russia, instead of having the chief place conferred on him by the Sultan's Firman.

Colonel Vitalis promises me that on his return to Philippopolis, where he left it, he will furnish me with a copy of the paper he was desired to sign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 223.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter, extracted from the "Phare de Bosphore," on the condition of Eastern Roumelia.

It describes very much what I have on different occasions reported to your Lordship, and the facts it relates are no doubt true.

It is impossible to foresee what may happen in the next few weeks, opinions being in so much contradiction. Both amongst the Russians and the Bulgarians there are two parties—moderate and advanced.

Among the first, the functionaries belonging to the Foreign Office, like Prince Lobanoff, and, recently, Prince Tzeretelew, have adopted very moderate language, and seem anxious that the Treaty of Berlin should, at all events, for the present be carried out.

Among the Bulgarians there are many, like the Exarch and his friends, who, once secure from Turkish administration, would be content to carry out the provisions of the Treaty, leaving to the future the further consolidation of their nationality.

To my mind, the great danger to be apprehended is from the state of excitement produced among the lower classes by Russian intriguers, of whom recently Generals Stolipine and Skobeleff have been the foremost.

The former is a man of inferior intellectual powers, divided between his desire of promotion by the Court and his fear of the Moscow newspapers. I have already reported to your Lordship his recent acts, his conduct towards Colonel Vitalis, and his continued armament of the population. He said to Colonel Vitalis: "You think you will secure the peace by means of the educated men you speak to here. They understand your arguments; but there are others who do not understand you, viz.: the people and the peasantry we have armed."

General Skobeleff makes no disguise of his designs, and both have recently, by reviews of the militia and of the Gymnastic Societies—now called "National Guards"—helped to stir up and increase the excitement. The prestige gained by the latter during the war, and his consequent popularity in Russia, considerably enhance the importance of his proceedings.

Colonel Vitalis, who has scraped up a sort of gossiping intimacy with many leading Bulgarians, declares that they are to a man hostile to the Russians. The riotous lives led by Russian officers they believe to be paid for by Bulgarian and Roumelian money. He tells me that the editor of the "Maritza" said to him a few days ago that, on the evacuation of the province, he would inform him of great Russian scandals. This tallies with M. de Coutouly's statement, reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 172, Confidential, of the 21st instant.

According to Colonel Vitalis, the Bulgarians will willingly accept the Treaty if they can only be delivered from the fear of Turkey and the agitation of the Russians.

Mr. Petor Dinitreff called on me to-day. He is a Bulgarian gentleman who edits a Bulgarian newspaper, half educational, half political, published by the American Missionaries.

He, like all the authorities on Bulgarian politics, is in doubt as to the immediate future. He hopes that the moderate party, viz., that ready to accept the Treaty, will carry the day. He fears, however, the energy of the advanced section, and thinks it likely that Aleko Pasha, through their exertions, will be elected Prince of Bulgaria.

He confirmed all I had heard from other sources of the dislike of the Bulgarians for the Russians.

An English professional gentleman also came to see me. He takes an interest in, and rather sympathizes with, the Bulgarians. He had just seen a well-educated young Bulgarian just returned from America, who was on his way home, somewhere near the Balkans, with the avowed object of being drilled.

This young man seems to be of the advanced party. His father, 60 years of age, is also being drilled, and they both say they are determined to achieve the union of the whole race.

Their object is said also to be to get rid both of Turkey and Russia. Rather than be subject to the Turks, they would become Russian.

They do not like the Russians; but the young man quoted a Bulgarian proverb: "Love the Devil if he carries you over a bridge."

I should be more hopeful of a satisfactory solution of all these difficulties if there were a little more decision and action on the part of the Turks.

Their dilatoriness has grown so exaggerated that it has lost the force it formerly possessed.

I am convinced that backed up by the Berlin Treaty and the declared will of Europe, a bold and rapid political course would be successful, even if not supported by military force.

A speedy recognition of things as they are might turn them in the right direction.

But blindness to the present and a hankering after a past now impossible to revive, cast many shadows over the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 224.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 186. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 28, 1879.*

LAST night the Commission dined together to celebrate the signature of the Statute. I inclose copies of a somewhat amusing "bill of fare" drawn up by Prince Tzeretelew in the form of a Proctocol.

The Turkish Commissioners were not present. They said they could not attend without a special authorization from the Porte. I do not know whether they applied for it, but as your Lordship will perceive, their names are not mentioned in the list of guests.

My reason for reporting a circumstance apparently so trivial, is an occurrence which took place after dinner. Toasts were then proposed, and Prince Tzeretelew gave in a pointed manner that of the French Commissioners. He did this with much good taste, grounding it on the really valuable assistance they have, with great labour, given the Commission in the "rédaction" of the Proctocols and the correction of proofs, &c.

Shortly after this, Baron de Ring rose and proposed the health of General Stolipine and the brave Russian army.

It was impossible to refuse to drink to this toast without manifest incivility, but when it is remembered that it was proposed at Constantinople, in the presence of a Turkish official and to Commissioners of different Powers, whose opinions are not unanimously in favour of Russia, the taste of Baron de Ring in making such a proposal is certainly questionable.

It was the more remarkable, as a very short time before the dinner M. de Ring had spoken to me in the strongest terms of General Stolipine's conduct in the affair of M. Vitalis.

He is generally a man of great tact and discretion, but since the ridicule thrown on M. Fournier, M. de Coutouly, and himself by the French journals, he seems to have become bewildered. To me privately, he abuses the Russians, while in public he seems to be courting their favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 225.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 187. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 57th Protocol.

Though dated the 24th March, it has only been circulated to-day. The reason is as follows.

The French Commissioners have the control of the Protocols, and practically themselves prepare them.

The Protocol being unfavourable to the Russians, these gentlemen have tried to suppress parts of it.

At page 38* your Lordship will perceive that, in answer to a question of mine, M. Schmidt deposed that, in a speech to the militia at Slivno, General Stolipine had said that he hoped they would be worthy to fight against the Turks.

M. de Coutouly confirmed M. Schmidt, and gave a stronger version of the story.

On the first reading of the Protocol a summary was given, and a very fair one, of M. de Coutouly's words. This gentleman, however, repudiated them, and an attempt was made to omit them.

I said that, if they were omitted, I would read my own notes taken at the time, and thus reproduce them in a subsequent Protocol. They were necessary to justify the motion I had made, and which had been adopted by the Commissioners of five Powers.

M. de Coutouly then undertook to produce the words to which he was prepared to adhere, which, as now printed, greatly diminish the force of his original language.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

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* See p. 177, *infra*.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Protocole No. 57.—Séance du $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars, 1879 (2 Rébi-ul-Akhir, 1296), à la Maison de la Commission Européenne, à Philippopoli.

Présidence de M. le Baron de Ring.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Baron de Ring : "J'avais dans la dernière séance réservé mon vote sur l'Article 5 et sur tout l'ensemble du Chapitre des Cultes. Je vote aujourd'hui le Chapitre entier; mais je déclare qu'en votant l'Article 5 dans sa nouvelle forme, j'entends que l'amendement qu'il a subi ne modifie en rien le droit de protection de la France sur les Catholiques d'Orient—protection constatée par le Traité de Berlin."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit que son amendement ne tendait nullement à modifier la situation privilégiée de la France vis-à-vis des Catholiques d'Orient, ni à lui contester un droit reconnu par le Traité de Berlin.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion du Chapitre VIII : "Agriculture, Commerce, et Travaux Publics."

Après une discussion entre tous les Commissaires, ce Chapitre est voté dans la forme suivante :—

Chapitre VIII.—*Agriculture, Commerce, et Travaux Publics.*

[See "Statut Organique," as printed for Parliament.]

M. Vernoni donne lecture du discours suivant :—

"Messieurs,

"La Roumélie Orientale est sans contredit un pays essentiellement agricole; c'est donc du rendement de l'agriculture que dépend la prospérité de son commerce, source de la richesse publique. La nouvelle Administration devra donc avoir constamment en vue l'adoption des mesures propres à faire prospérer la richesse du pays, en rapport direct avec la richesse particulière de ses habitants. Elle devra encourager l'agriculture par des mesures sages et utiles. Le sol de ce pays est d'une fertilité exceptionnelle; il dépend donc du travail qu'on y apporte de le rendre le plus productif possible.

"Ces considérations m'ont poussé à vous proposer qu'il fût établi dans la nouvelle Administration une Direction spéciale de l'Agriculture et du Commerce, qui puisse s'occuper de ces intérêts vitaux de la province.

La terre étant un capital dont le rendement est en rapport direct avec le travail qu'on y apporte, il est indispensable de prendre les mesures et les moyens aptes à le

régler pour qu'il ne s'use inutilement; pour celà, il est de la plus grande nécessité de fournir à l'agriculture de ce pays les moyens de se perfectionner.

"La création de quelques fermes-modèles (écoles) me paraît devoir répondre à ce but. Deux ou trois de ces établissements créés dans différents points de la province, les plus adaptés, ne manqueront pas de donner une vigoureuse impulsion au progrès de l'agriculture. Les résultats qu'on atteindra par l'adoption d'un système de culture mieux entendu, par les soins qu'exige l'élève du bétail, par l'introduction d'instruments aratoires perfectionnés, démontreront à l'agriculteur les avantages qu'il retirera de ces réformes: d'abord l'économie du temps, l'emploi économique de la force humaine, et ensuite un rendement plus fructueux.

"D'après mes renseignements, il existe dans la province un certain nombre de fermes appartenant à l'État. Il ne s'agirait donc que de faire un choix de celles d'entr'elles qui se prêtent mieux, par leur position, au but auquel je voudrais qu'elles fussent destinées.

"Je ne saurais assez insister pour cette innovation. Je suis convaincu que la création de quelques fermes-écoles aura d'utiles résultats et contribuera au développement et à la prospérité de ce pays qui est essentiellement agricole.

"Je finis, Messieurs, en faisant cette remarque: le rendement de la terre est calculé dans la Roumélie Orientale à 10 pour un; dans les campagnes de la Lombardie ce rendement est de 20 à 25 pour un. Pourquoi cette immense différence? La cause en est bien évidente, car les magnifiques plaines de la Roumélie Orientale n'ont rien à envier à celles de la Lombardie.

"Le réglement de la navigation de la Maritza aurait, cela est certain, une grande importance pour le développement du commerce de cette province. La nouvelle Administration devrait s'occuper sérieusement de l'étude des mesures à prendre en vue de donner à ce moyen de communication toute la sécurité et toutes les facilités possibles.

"Il existe tout le long de la Maritza de nombreux barrages qui rendent la navigation si ce n'est impossible tout au moins fort difficile. Les propriétaires des moulins qui se trouvent sur ces deux rives réalisent seuls les avantages que présente cette voie fluviale. Les barrages qu'ils construisent pour faire affluer un fort courant d'eau à leurs moulins occupent presque toute la largeur de la rivière et les étroits passages qu'ils laissent libres à la navigation lui sont souvent bien nuisibles, car, les radeaux et les barques qui se présentent pour les franchir courent les plus grands dangers; s'ils ont le malheur de manquer le fil du courant, qui nécessairement est violent dans ces passes, ils sont jetés contre les barrages, chavirent, quelquefois se brisent, et les céréales qu'ils transportent sont entièrement perdues.

"Les négociants qui s'occupent du commerce d'exportation des céréales, malgré ces inconvénients qui leur occasionnent une perte calculé à 2 pour cent sur le capital exposé, ont continué à se servir de ce moyen de transport, même après l'ouverture de la ligne de chemin de fer de Dédéagatch. En voici la raison. Par la voie de la rivière les frais de transport de Philippopoli jusqu'à Enos leur revenaient de 7 à 8 piastres par sac de 100 kilog. de céréales; par chemin de fer la dépense était de 12 piastres. La compensation que devait leur offrir la célérité et l'exactitude du chemin de fer était suffisante, car, soit que la compagnie manquât de wagons disponibles, soit aussi à cause des dérangements qui se répétaient souvent sur la ligne, il n'en résultait pour eux aucun avantage réel. En dehors de ce que je viens de dire, il y a aussi une autre circonstance qu'il faut apprécier. Le port d'Enos est d'un bon mouillage, tandis que la rade de Dédéagatch est dangereuse; les céréales qui arrivent successivement par radeaux sont aussitôt chargées sur les navires sans perte de temps et sans transbordement. La Compagnie des chemins de fer, dans le but d'habituer le négociant à se servir de son entremise pour le transport des céréales au commencement de l'ouverture de la ligne de Dédéagatch, lui a fait un certain rabais sur le Tarif actuellement en vigueur, et le service était fait avec plus d'exactitude. Mais aussitôt le but atteint, le Tarif de transport a été augmenté et le plus grand désordre a existé dans l'Administration, ce qui est cause de plaintes continuelles de la part du commerce.

"Dans l'année 1868, si je ne me trompe, le Gouvernement Ottoman ayant pris en considération la position désavantageuse dans laquelle se trouvait la navigation de la Maritza, avait, sur les instances du commerce, décidé d'abolir les barrages qui obstruaient le cours du fleuve. A cet effet, on avait établi une taxe (varidat) sur les radeaux qui descendaient à Enos; de Bazardjik chaque radeau payait 120 piastres, et il en payait 70 piastres de Philippopoli. Cet argent devait servir à indemniser les propriétaires des moulins dont on devait démolir successivement les barrages. La mesure était excellente en elle-même et en quelques années la navigation de la

Maritza aurait pu entrer dans un état normal et satisfaisant; mais malheureusement cette disposition est tombée en désuétude et les barrages au lieu de diminuer ont augmenté.

"La nouvelle Administration devrait remettre en vigueur et réglementer cette mesure et la faire adopter par le Gouvernement central, pour le parcours de la rivière qui le concerne. La libre navigation de la Maritza présenterait un encouragement réel au commerce d'exportation, assurerait aussi un profit aux cultivateurs, car, en somme, la surcharge de frais résultant du transport par chemin de fer est supportée par eux.

"Je dois noter enfin un autre inconvénient qui est résulté de la presque cessation de la navigation fluviale. Je veux parler de la fabrication des sacs en poils de chèvres qui étaient confectionnés à Otlukeui et à Eski-Zaghra et qui servaient aux négociants pour la descente des céréales à Enos. Cette industrie a été complétement détruite. Le commerce du bois de construction avec lequel étaient faits les radeaux a également souffert; une fois arrivés à destination, ces bois au lieu de remonter la rivière étaient envoyés à Smyrne ou ailleurs, ce qui constituait une branche importante de commerce, qui donnait des bénéfices considérables à la province aussi bien qu'aux négociants.

"L'exposé que je viens de faire a démontré d'une manière assez évidente, je l'espère, tous les avantages qui résulteraient de la reprise de la navigation de la Maritza. Par conséquent, je conseille à la nouvelle Administration de se saisir de cette importante question, d'étudier les moyens de canaliser la rivière, de la délivrer des empêchements qui rendent sa navigation difficile, d'étudier un système de dragage qui est indispensable, et d'encourager le remorquage des radeaux par de petites mouches à vapeur."

L'ordre du jour appelle l'examen de la situation faite à l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne.

M. de Coutouly prend la parole en ces termes:

"Le Comité des Finances a eu une entrevue avec M. Schmidt auquel il a fait part du désir de la Commission.

"Notre Directeur-Général nous a tout d'abord déclaré qu'à moins de nouveaux arrangements entre les Gouvernements, l'Administration Financière, telle qu'il l'entend et telle que nous l'entendons, lui paraît une impossibilité.

"Il consent néanmoins à garder provisoirement le poste que la Commission lui a confié, mais il ne croit pas pouvoir faire autre chose qu'un simple service de Caisse, et son activité devra se borner à l'expédition des affaires courantes.

"Si l'on désire savoir pourquoi M. Schmidt croit à l'impossibilité d'une amélioration de la situation actuelle, il me faudra entrer dans de longs développements. Qu'il me suffise de dire que le Comité des Finances partage l'avis du Directeur-Général. Pendant bien longtemps Abro Effendi, Lord Donoughmore, et moi nous avons conservé l'espoir que notre Administration des Finances finirait par se trouver en mesure d'accomplir entièrement son mandat. Les jours et les mois se sont passés sans que l'état de choses dont nous avons dû nous plaindre si souvent depuis notre entrée en fonctions, se soit vraiment amélioré. On ne peut certainement pas dire que nous nous sommes découragés trop tôt. Je suis même prêt à reconnaître que nous avons péché par un excès d'optimisme. Il a fallu les épreuves des derniers jours pour nous amener à reconnaître avec M. Schmidt que nos efforts devaient fatalement aboutir à un échec final. Mais nous sommes convaincus maintenant qu'à moins d'un changement radical dans les conditions qui nous sont faites, notre Administration Financière restera malheureusement toujours ce qu'elle a été jusqu'ici, une apparence plutôt qu'une réalité.

"Si la Commission veut encore tenter de relever cette Administration, et faire un dernier effort pour se saisir de la gestion vraiment souveraine des finances de la Roumélie Orientale, il faut qu'elle trouve autre part qu'ici, auprès des Cabinets, un appui, sans lequel nous nous déclarons impuissants à continuer la lutte. Si de nouveaux arrangements ne sont pas pris à la dernière heure, il vaut mieux, je crois, constater franchement que, même dans le cas où M. Schmidt consentirait à rester à son poste, le Comité des Finances ne saurait plus avoir la prétention de s'acquitter sérieusement de son mandat. Je tiens à déclarer, en outre, pour ce qui me concerne personnellement, que, si la Commission se rend à Constantinople, je croirai devoir la prier de ne pas laisser ici le Comité des Finances, et surtout de ne pas renouveler des pouvoirs, dont il nous serait impossible de nous servir."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff: "Je suis d'avis qu'il nous est impossible de continuer

notre tâche au point de vue des finances. Mais quant à provoquer de nouveaux arrangements, je ne crois pas que nous puissions le faire. Nos Gouvernements n'auraient en effet pas le temps matériel de s'entendre sur de nouvelles mesures à prendre. Pour le moment, je crois donc qu'il suffira de démontrer que, si nous n'avons pas réussi dans l'exécution du mandat financier dont l'Europe nous a investis, la faute ne doit pas retomber sur nous. En conséquence, et pour nous décharger d'une accusation qu'on pourrait porter contre nous, il faudrait prier M. Schmidt de venir nous donner des explications sur le contenu de sa lettre, lue dans la dernière séance. Nous constaterons ainsi qu'il nous a été impossible de faire plus que nous n'avons fait, et, la chose une fois établie d'une manière incontestable, nous pourrons jusqu'à un certain point continuer à remplir notre mandat."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que la Commission ayant pu fonctionner durant cinq mois, il serait peu pratique de provoquer au dernier moment des discussions nouvelles.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff: "Je tiens à relever ce que vient de dire le Prince Tzeretelew, que nous avons pu fonctionner pendant cinq mois. Je dois déclarer ici que nous n'avons jamais été vraiment saisis de l'Administration Financière. Jusqu'à aujourd'hui nous n'avons même pas pu obtenir des renseignements complets sur les finances de la province. Rien ne nous a été communiqué sur la vente des dîmes, sur le contrat Maréchal, &c. Nous n'avons jamais rien su sur les douanes de Bourgas, qui auraient dû nous être remises. Nous avons appris indirectement qu'on a rendu à M. Maréchal £T. 55,000 sur les £T. 3,000,000 qu'il avait payés à Sophia. Nous avons appris aussi qu'on avait envoyé à Sophia le prix des dîmes vendues directement aux propriétaires à la même époque qu'à M. Maréchal, mais nous n'avons jamais pu découvrir la raison de ce fait. Il nous sera très-facile de prouver que nous avons toujours eu à lutter contre des impossibilités et notre devoir est de le constater. C'est pourquoi je répète qu'il me paraît opportun d'appeler et d'interroger M. Schmidt."

M. de Coutouly annonce qu'il vient de recevoir à l'instant du Gouverneur-Général une collection de documents relatifs aux recettes et dépenses des Départements de Philippopoli et de Slivno, depuis le début de l'occupation Russe jusqu'au 30 Septembre, 1879. Ces documents seront déposés à la Direction des Finances.

Après avoir consulté la Commission sur la proposition de Sir Drummond Wolff, *le Président* fait inviter M. Schmidt à se rendre au sein de la Commission.

M. Schmidt est introduit.

M. de Kallay dit que, si la Commission n'a pas d'objections, il propose pour les questions à l'ordre du jour, le vote à la majorité des voix.

La Commission adopte.

Le Président s'adresse en ces termes à M. Schmidt:—

"M. le Directeur-Général, nous avons reçu votre lettre du 21 Mars, dans laquelle vous donnez votre démission. La Commission a chargé le Comité des Finances de vous exprimer les regrets que votre décision lui a fait éprouver et de vous prier de vouloir bien rester au poste que vous occupiez si bien. Le Comité des Finances vient de nous transmettre votre réponse; je suis heureux d'apprendre que nous ne devons pas encore nous séparer. Si je vous ai prié de venir, c'est que Sir H. Drummond Wolff désirait vous demander certaines explications sur votre lettre du 21 Mars."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff, s'adressant à M. Schmidt:—

"Permettez-moi de vous interroger paragraphe par paragraphe sur le contenu de votre lettre, et veuillez d'abord me donner des explications sur les deuxième, troisième, et quatrième alinéas de ce document."

Il lit:—

"Les entraves proviennent pour la plus grande partie de l'attitude des autorités Russes qui, d'une part, méconnaissent les droits donnés à la Commission Européenne en matière de finances, droits définis par la Résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878, et qui, d'autre part, ne peuvent pas ou ne veulent pas faire respecter par la population l'autorité de la Commission Européenne.

"Les dernières semaines, au lieu d'améliorer l'état de choses dont la Commission a eu si souvent à se plaindre, ont au contraire ajouté aux griefs précédents.

"Vous connaissez les derniers événements de Haskeuï, Yamboli, et Slivno; ils parlent assez haut."

M. Schmidt répond: "Je regrette de ne pas avoir été prévenu d'avance; j'aurais pu dans ce cas me présenter ici, muni de tous les documents qui servent de base, pour ainsi dire, à mes plaintes.

"Je ne pourrai, pour cette raison, que citer de mémoire quelques exemples à l'appui de chacunes des plaintes contenues dans les passages de ma lettre qui viennent d'être lus.

"En transmettant les états budgétaires aux Caissiers, j'ai donné à ceux-ci l'ordre de demander aux autorités civiles les pièces justificatives des dépenses mensuelles. Quelques Chefs d'Arrondissement ont refusé de livrer ces pièces; l'un d'entre eux à même écrit à la Direction Générale que cette demande lui paraissait 'originale.' Ce même Chef d'Arrondissement, qui avait effectué certaines dépenses aux mois de Novembre et de Décembre, réclame maintenant le remboursement de ces dépenses en disant qu'il les avait faites alors sur des sommes qui se trouvaient à sa disposition; et quand je lui ai demandé par lettre ce qu'il entendait dire par là, il m'a répondu, 'pour satisfaire ma curiosité,'—c'est l'expresion dont il s'est servi,—que ces dépenses avaient été faites sur les sommes conditionnelles.

"Le Gouverneur de Slivno a donné encore, à la fin du mois de Janvier, à certains employés des Finances, l'ordre de s'adresser, pour les affaires de service, à tel ou tel employé de l'autorité civile. Les autorités civiles en général, continuent du reste à donner des ordres de paiement sans que j'en ai connaissance."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff à M. Schmidt: "Je me permettrai de vous demander des explications sur les cinquième et sixième alinéas suivants de votre lettre:—

"'Aujourdhui même, j'ai reçu un Rapport du Directeur des Contributions Indirectes de Philippopoli, qui me dit que deux Surveillants envoyés dans le Canton d'Aftché-Holma ont été expulsés par la population.

"'Ces employés étaient munis de lettres de la Direction Générale et du Chef d'Arrondissement de Philippopoli. Mais les habitants, assurés de l'impunité par les précédents de Yéni-Zaghra, Haskeuï, Tehirpan, Abrachlari, et Yamboli, ou du moins certains de n'être condamnés qu'à des peines insignifiantes, tout-à-fait hors de proportion avec la gravité des fautes, préfèrent naturellement ne pas recevoir les employés des Finances, afin de se soustraire à toute contribution. Pourtant le produit des impôts serait principalement affecté au paiement des frais d'occupation de l'armée Russe, payables par la province.'

"Je vous prie de me dire quelles mesures ont été prises par l'autorité, vis-à-vis des désordres dont vous parlez dans ce passage."

M. Schmidt répond: "Je n'ai été informé que des punitions qui ont été signalées à la Commission par les autorités.

"A ma connaissance, les promoteurs des troubles à Yéni-Zaghra, Abrachlari, et Haskeuï, non pas été poursuivis. D'après une communication du Général Hübsch, trois ou quatre individus qui ont pris part aux événements de Tehirpan ont été condamnés à trois semaines de prison. En outre, à la suite de la sédition de Haskeuï, l'autorité a fait arrêter onze des trente signataires de l'adresse. Ces gens, transportés à Philippopoli, ont été immédiatement relâchés. Les individus qui étaient entrés dans le local même de la Caisse, et qui ont frappé le Caissier, n'ont pas été découverts par l'autorité civile.

"Quant aux promoteurs des révoltes de Slivno et de Yamboli, M. de Coutouly vous a dit, dans son Rapport, que le Gouverneur-Général se proposait d'imposer à la ville de Slivno une contribution en faveur de l'école Bulgare."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff: "Voulez-vous, M. Schmidt, me donner des détails sur le troisième passage suivant de votre lettre?—

"'Certains Chefs d'Arrondissement refuse de se conformer aux prescriptions de la Direction Générale des Finances pour le contrôle de leurs dépenses—prescriptions qui ont été communiquées par moi à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, sans provoquer de sa part une réplique quelconque.

"'Les autorités civiles continuent à donner des ordres aux Caissiers, et à effectuer elles-mêmes des dépenses sur les revenus du pays, sans consulter la Direction Générale des Finances, et le Gouverneur-Général lui-même a autorisé certains de ces dépenses.

"'Le Gouverneur de Philippopoli a récemment donné l'ordre à vos Caissiers de lui délivrer les archives jusqu'au 31 Décembre, 1878 (pièces justicatives de la Caisse), comme si ces fonctionnaires étaient placés sous son autorité.'"

M. Schmidt répond: "Dans ce passage, j'ai voulu faire allusion à ce que j'ai déjà dit dans mon Rapport sur mon entrevue avec les employés des Finances de Slivno. Sur l'ordre du Gouverneur-Général, le Gouverneur de Slivno s'était fait payer par les Caisses d'Arrondissement, pour les envoyer à Sophia, certaines sommes, provenant, à ce qui m'a été déclaré, de la vente aux cultivateurs d'une partie des dîmes cédées à Maréchal. Le montant de ces sommes a été, me dit-on, établi par les Conseils d'Arrondissement, sans que j'eusse aucun moyen de le vérifier. D'autres fonds ont été pris

dans les Caisses d'arrondissement sur les sommes conditionnelles, même après que ces sommes avaient été mises à votre disposition par la lettre du Gouverneur-Général, en date du 13 Février. Le Gouverneur-Général m'a dit qu'il avait voulu prélever ces sommes sur le butin de guerre, mais cette distinction n'a pas été faite dans l'ordre donné au Caissier par le Gouverneur de Slivno. D'ailleurs, le Général Stolipine avait, dans une précédente lettre, laissé à la Commission elle-même, le soin de faire le tringe des sommes provenant des biens Turcs et du butin de guerre."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff voudrait savoir à quelle époque les sommes provenant de la vente des dîmes sont entrées dans les Caisses.

M. Schmidt répond que c'est pendant les mois d'Octobre, Novembre, Décembre et même depuis le commencement de l'année.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff prie M. Schmidt de lui donner des explications sur le paragraphe suivant de sa lettre du 21 Mars:—

"La vraie Administration Financière reste toujours,—malgré nos réclamations réitérées—entre les mains des Conseils d'Arrondissement, qui dépendent uniquement des Gouverneurs; or, vous savez combien il est difficile d'obtenir de ces Conseils les renseignements nécessaires, et quelles pertes de temps sont résultées pour nous de leur négligence ou de leur mauvais vouloir."

M. Schmidt dit: "Je m'étais adressé au Gouverneur-Général pour faire donner l'ordre aux Conseils d'Arrondissement de remettre au 31 Décembre les registres des impôts aux Caissiers d'arrondissements. J'avais voulu par-là établir une fois pour toutes que les encaissements devaient s'opérer directement par les Caissiers, comme cela est d'ailleurs prescrit dans les instructions du Prince Dondoukoff pour les Caisses d'arrondissement. Mais nous sommes aujourd'hui au $\frac{1-2}{2}$ Mars, et quelques-uns des Conseils seulement se sont conformés à mes désirs: la plupart continuent à percevoir eux-mêmes les impôts. Ces Conseils tiennent un registre de caisse à part, effectuant des dépenses sur les revenus en caisse sans mon autorisation, et versant périodiquement le surplus des recettes dans les Caisses d'arrondissements, fonctionnant sous votre autorité."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff: "Je vous prie de me dire si les municipalités ont pris de l'argent du fisc, et dans quelles circonstances? Voici ce que vous dites à ce sujet dans votre lettre.

Il lit:—

"Les Municipalités auxquelles l'autorité Russe impose des dépenses dépassant leurs forces, empiètent sur les revenus de l'Etat, et il n'a pas été possible jusqu'à présent de défendre les intérêts du fisc."

M. Schmidt: "J'ai constaté cela par les registres de la Municipalité de Philippopoli, laquelle a encaissé des sommes très-considérables appartenant à l'Etat, notamment le montant des patentes sur les débits de boissons; et, malgré la promesse du Gouverneur-Général faite à M. de Coutouly, nous n'avons pas encore réussi à obtenir le remboursement de ces sommes. Cela est d'autant plus surprenant que les règlements du Prince Dondoukoff sur cette matière sont très-clairs et excluent toute fausse interprétation. Je dois dire que les livres de la Municipalité de Philippopoli sont les seuls que j'aie pu voir; mais il résulte d'un rapport du Directeur des Contributions Indirectes de Tatar-Bazardjik, que les avis invitant des débitants de boissons à acquitter le droit de patente ont été déchirés par la population, et que les débitants ont payé cette patente à la Municipalité. Cet agent décline toute responsabilité pouvant résulter de cet état de choses."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff lit:—

"La population Bulgare est profondément agitée et s'oppose aux fonctionnaires de la Commission Européenne. L'autorité Russe est impuissante ou incapable de protéger ces employés et de leur assurer le libre exercice de leurs fonctions.

"L'autorité civile n'a fait rien de sérieux contre les promoteurs des séditions de Yéni-Zaghra, Haskeuï, Tchirpan, et Abrachlari; quant aux mesures que M. le Gouverneur-Général a déclaré vouloir ordonner pour châtier les coupables de Yamboli et de Slivno, M. de Coutouly vous les a fait connaître.

"A vous de juger si elles sont proportionnées à la gravité des désordres et de nature à prévenir le retour d'émeutes semblables, étant donnée la surexcitation extraordinaire d'une population armée par l'autorité Russe pour s'opposer, dans un avenir prochain, aux fonctionnaires du Sultan, et qui assimile à ces fonctionnaires les employés de la Commission Européenne."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff prie M. Schmidt de lui donner des explications sur le contenu de ce passage.

Le Colonël Schepelew voudrait savoir quelles raisons ont porté M. Schmidt à supposer que la population a été armée pour s'opposer aux fonctionnaires du Sultan.

M. Schmidt ayant hésité à répondre, *Sir Henry Drummond Wolff* lui demande s'il a entendu des harangues ou des allocutions prononcées dans ce sens par les fonctionnaires Russes.

M. Schmidt: "Le Gouverneur-Général passant en revue un détachement de la droujina de Slivno, lui a dit, après l'avoir félicité sur sa tenue, qu'il espérait qu'il se battrait bien contre les Turcs."

M. de Coutouly dit qu'il regrette l'allusion qui vient d'être faite à quelques paroles prononcées par le Général Stolipine devant un petit détachement de la milice. Il n'avait pas cru devoir faire allusion dans son Rapport officiel à ces quelques mots qui avaient été entendus fortuitement par M. Schmidt et par lui. Mais du moment qu'il en a été question en séance, M. de Coutouly estime que sa loyauté l'oblige à expliquer dans quelles circonstances elles ont été prononcées: "Si j'ai bien compris le Général Stolipine," ajoute-il, "son Excellence voulait réveiller l'esprit de discipline et encourager les miliciens à leur devoir pour protéger M. Schmidt et rétablir l'ordre. En terminant sa courte allocution, qui paraît avoir fait une vive impression sur ses jeunes auditeurs, le Général leur a adressé une dernière phrase signifiant que, puisqu'ils parlaient toujours de se battre contre les Turcs, ils devaient prouver par une conduite vraiment militaire, qu'ils étaient dignes d'être conduits au feu.

"Voilà, ce me semble, le sens des paroles prononcées dans cette occasion par le Général Stolipine. Pour en apprécier la portée, il faut savoir comment elles ont été amenées."

Le Prince Tzeretelew demande comment MM. de Coutouly et Schmidt ont pu saisir le sens de ce qui a été dit dans une langue qu'ils ne comprennent pas.

M. Schmidt: "Le drogman qui m'accompagnait, et dont le Russe est la langue maternelle, a traduit pour M. de Coutouly et pour moi le petit discours du Général pendant que celui-ci le prononçait. M. de Coutouly et moi avons du reste parfaitement compris qu'il était question des Turcs."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff lit les alinéas suivants de la lettre de M. Schmidt et prie celui-ci de les lui expliquer:

"L'indulgence de l'autorité Russe à l'égard des démonstrations et de la résistance violente aux fonctionnaires de la Commission Européenne doit nécessairement encourager la population, qui, mal éclairée, croit accomplir une œuvre patriotique, et qui compte trouver grâce devant les autorités Russes.

"Rien n'a été fait par l'autorité civile pour éclairer la population sur le véritable caractère de l'Administration Financière.

"Malgré nos réclamations réitérées, la résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, qui est une loi fondamentale pour le Gouvernement Provisoire de cette province, n'a jamais été publié par la 'Maritza,' journal qui sert à toutes les communications officielles. . . ."

M. Schmidt: "La résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre a été communiquée, il est vrai, à quelques autorités civiles, mais sans instructions spéciales. Les modes de publication en usage dans le pays sont l'affichage aux portes des églises et des écoles, et la notification des mesures prises, par l'organe du journal officiel la 'Maritza.' Aucun de ces deux moyens n'a été employé."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff lit le passage suivant de la lettre de M. Schmidt, auquel il demande comment il a su que le Métropolitain de Slivno le prenait pour un fonctionnaire Ottoman.

". . . . Ainsi le Métropolitain Bulgare de Slivno pouvait croire que je représentais l'autorité du Sultan, et le Colonel Russe, Commandant de Yamboli, pouvait me désigner comme un Ministre Turc dans son billet par lequel il réquisitionnait la troupe."

M. Schmidt: "Dans une conversation qu'il a eue avec M. de Coutouly, le Métropolitain a dit qu'en ma qualité d'employé de la Banque Ottomane, il m'avait toujours pris pour un fonctionnaire du Sultan, parce qu'il considérait la banque en question comme un service relevant de la Sublime Porte. Du reste, vous savez que le Commandant de Yamboli m'a désigné comme un Ministre Turc, lors de mon premier voyage. C'est le Gouverneur-Général qui nous l'a raconté à M. de Coutouly et à moi."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff lit:—

"Au mois de Janvier, la Commission Européenne avait décidé de venir en aide aux cultivateurs qui avaient souffert par les événements de la guerre, et elle avait ordonné une enquête pour connaître les sommes jugées nécessaires par les communes.

Je fis imprimer pour cette enquête des feuilles, que je remis à M. le Gouverneur-Général, avec prière de les distribuer aux Conseils d'Arrondissement, qui devaient en faire parvenir un exemplaire à chaque commune.

"Cette manifestation des intentions bienveillantes de la Commission Européenne aurait peut-être contribué à éclairer la population sur le but de l'Administration Financière, et à rendre le peuple moins accessible aux accusations répandues par les agitateurs contre la Commission.

"Mais les Conseils d'Arrondissement n'ont jamais reçu les imprimés remis au Gouverneur-Général, ni l'ordre de procéder à l'enquête décrétée par la Commission Européenne."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande comment M. Schmidt a eu connaissance de ce dernier fait, et pourquoi, d'après lui, l'enquête dont il parle n'a pas eu lieu.

M. Schmidt: "Comme à Yamboli j'entendis exprimer l'idée que le seul but de notre Administration Financière était de faire parvenir à Constantinople les fonds de la province, je demandai au Caissier de cette ville si les feuilles pour l'enquête concernant les avances aux cultivateurs avaient été distribuées à la population. Il me répondit que le Conseil d'Arrondissement n'avait jamais reçu ces feuilles, ni l'ordre d'ouvrir une enquête. Je fus frappé de cette réponse, et lorsque je rentrai à Philippopoli, je m'empressai de demander à Yéni-Zaghra, Eski-Zaghra, Kézanlik, &c., si on avait été mieux renseigné à ce sujet. De tous côtés il me fut répondu que jamais on n'avait été saisi de cette affaire. Je dois dire que je regrettai d'autant plus le silence gardé par l'autorité Russe qu'un des effets de l'enquête devait être de dissiper la crainte de la population, et de l'éclaircir sur les véritables intentions de la Commission Européenne. En effet, si la Commission avait procuré aux cultivateurs victimes des derniers événements des sommes permettant au paysan de se remettre au travail, et de recommencer la culture des champs, elle n'aurait jamais pu être accusée de vouloir s'emparer de l'argent de la province pour l'envoyer à Stamboul."

Le Colonel Schepelew demande si M. Schmidt connaît les raisons pour lesquelles le Gouverneur-Général a cru devoir se dispenser l'enquête en question.

M. Schmidt répond qu'il n'en a pas été informé.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff continue à lire:—

"La province a des intérêts très-considérables à Achiolou et à Bourgas. Dans la première ville à cause des marais salants; dans la seconde à cause de la Douane du seul port maritime de la province. Malgré toutes mes démarches, je n'ai pas encore pu obtenir un Rapport ou un compte-rendu quelconque de la Douane de Bourgas.

"La visite de ces deux villes était un des principaux objets de ma tournée."

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne prie M. Schmidt de lui dire si en effet la Direction Générale des Finances n'a reçu aucun Rapport concernant la Douane de Bourgas et les marais salants d'Achiolou.

M. Schmidt répond que, malgré ses lettres multiples et ses plaintes réitérées, il n'a obtenu aucun renseignement sur la Douane de Bourgas.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff reprend sa lecture:—

"A Slivno son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a déclaré officiellement à M. de Coutouly, Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, qu'il était impossible que je continuasse mon voyage pour inspecter les services financiers dans les chef-lieux des départements de Slivno.

"Peut-être son Excellence me fera-t-elle bientôt la même déclaration pour mon séjour à Philippopoli."

Le Prince Tzeretelew demande dans quels termes cette déclaration a été faite. Il n'a pas connaissance d'une pareille déclaration officielle.

M. de Coutouly répond que la déclaration de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général se trouve consignée dans son Rapport, et qu'elle lui a été faite officiellement pour être communiquée à la Commission.

Le Colonel Schepelew demande à M. Schmidt s'il a une raison quelconque de croire que le Gouverneur-Général lui ferait une semblable déclaration concernant son séjour à Philippopoli.

M. Schmidt répond que la manière dont il a été traité dans sa tournée lui fait croire que l'on pourrait bien finir par ne plus le tolérer même à Philippopoli, mais qu'il n'a aucune information à ce sujet.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff: "Je ne poursuivrai pas plus loin la lecture de la lettre de M. Schmidt. Tout ce qui vient être dit, comme tous les faits dont nous avons été témoins jusqu'ici, prouve d'une façon évidente qu'il n'a pas été en notre pouvoir d'exécuter l'Article XIX. Aussi je propose la motion suivante:—

"*Motion.*

"'La Commission constate qu'à cause des difficultés suscitées par certaines autorités Russes, et à cause de l'état d'excitation de la population, elle n'a pas pu mettre en œuvre les stipulations de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin; et, pour décharger toute sa responsabilité, elle attire l'attention des Cabinets sur cette déclaration.

"'En même temps elle prie M. Schmidt de continuer ses fonctions dans la mesure où il pourra les exercer jusqu'à ce que la Commission soit dissoute.'"

Le Premier Commissaire de Russie déclare que la motion de son collègue d'Angleterre impliquant une accusation contre les autorités Russes, il ne peut absolument pas l'accepter. "Lors de la discussion qui s'est engagée à la cinquante-sixième séance à propos de la lettre du Directeur-Général des Finances," dit le Colonel Schepelew, "j'ai tenu à relever certaines expressions de M. Schmidt, qui tendaient à faire retomber sur l'Administration Civile Russe toute la responsabilité des obstacles qui ont entravé la gestion régulière des finances de la province. Je persiste encore aujourd'hui à décliner cette responsabilité, et à constater que l'autorité Russe a fait tout ce qu'elle pouvait pour faciliter l'exécution du mandat financier dévolu à la Commission.

"Il est vrai que plusieurs fois le Directeur des Finances a eu à se plaindre de quelques irrégularités commises par des agents subalternes, irrégularités qui provenaient non d'un mauvais vouloir systématique, mais de malentendus découlant d'une fausse interprétation des nouveaux règlements financiers. Dans toutes ces occasions, l'autorité supérieure s'est montrée prête à faire immédiatement droit aux justes réclamations de la Commission et a donné des ordres en conséquence. Je regrette comme tous mes collègues que des difficultés de ce genre aient surgi, mais je ne les explique uniquement par la situation anormale des Administrations Civile et Financière de ce pays, et je ne puis envisager ces difficultés passagères comme devant interrompre la gestion des finances. On a voulu imputer à l'autorité Russe la faute de n'avoir pas porté à la connaissance des agents administratifs et de la population la Résolution financière du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878. Je suis à même de réfuter cette imputation, car je suis certain que la dite Résolution a été communiquée à tous les Chefs d'Arrondissement et que plusieurs de ces derniers avaient convoqué leurs subordonnés, tels que les Chefs des nahiés et les gendarmes, pour leur expliquer les droits et les attributions de la nouvelle Administration Financière et les charger d'éclairer à leur tour les contribuables.

"Ce n'est donc pas l'attitude des autorités Russes qui a causé les entraves dont se plaint la Direction des Finances; il faut les chercher ailleurs et surtout dans l'état actuel des esprits, état dont je m'abstiens d'examiner les causes. Les événements récents qui se sont produits dans une partie de la province nous ont prouvé à l'évidence que l'Administration Russe a fait tout ce qui dépendait d'elle pour faire respecter, dans des circonstances très-difficiles, l'autorité des agents de la Commission. Mais dans des cas comme celui de Slivno l'Administration ne pourra prêter aux agents de la Commission qu'un concours purement matériel, et ce concours entraînera peut-être des conflits regrettables. Je ne sais pas s'il est de l'intention de la Commission de pousser les affaires à une telle issue; ce que je tiens seulement à constater c'est que l'autorité Russe a toujours fait et qu'elle continuera à faire son devoir, en maintenant l'ordre dans la province et en prêtant son appui à l'exécution légale des dispositions financières prises par la Commission.

"Guidé par les considérations que je viens d'exposer je ne puis accepter la motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et par conséquent je me verrai obligé de voter contre."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit que la Commission ne se plaint pas d'avoir manqué de protection, mais de ce que rien n'a été fait pour éclairer la population. Jamais on n'a voulu publier la Résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, ni la réponse qui a été faite par M. de Kallay à la pétition Bulgare. Si ces deux pièces avaient été connues de la population, il est plus que probable que celle-ci ne serait pas aussi mal renseignée sur les intentions de la Commission Européenne.

M. de Kallay prend la parole en ces termes:—

"C'est une triste satisfaction pour moi de voir que la motion que j'ai proposée il y a deux mois est reconnue aujourd'hui comme la seule solution pratique. Je n'entrerai point ici dans une analyse des faits: ils sont connus de vous. Après ce que

nous venons d'entendre, notre devoir est de déclarer franchement que nous n'avons jamais eu en main l'Administration Financière non par notre faute, mais par suite d'empêchements indépendants de notre volonté. La responsabilité de l'inexécution de l'Article XIX doit donc peser sur d'autres que sur nous. Il est nécessaire que cela soit constaté; mais après cela, je ne crois pas que nous devions renoncer à nos pouvoirs. Nous pouvons parfaitement continuer notre service comme par le passé, notre Directeur-Général restant non pas le Chef véritable de l'Administration Financière, mais le Chef de la Caisse provinciale. Pour ce qui concerne la motion présentée par notre collègue d'Angleterre, je crois qu'elle ne peut plus avoir d'effet pratique, le terme fixé pour l'évacuation étant très-proche, mais je n'en suis pas moins disposé à m'y rallier."

M. de Braunschweig dit que si le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne veut scinder sa motion, il est prêt à en voter la seconde partie. Pour ce qui concerne la première, il ne croit pas que la Commission puisse entrer sous quelque forme que ce soit en relations directes avec les Gouvernements: il s'abstiendra donc de la discuter et de la voter.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff répond qu'il n'a pas proposé sa motion dans l'espoir de modifier la situation de l'Administration Financière, mais uniquement parce qu'au moment où le mandat de la Commission touche à sa fin, il a cru nécessaire de constater que si l'Administration Financière n'a pas pu fonctionner, la responsabilité de cet échec doit retomber non sur la Commission, mais sur les autorités Russes. Pour se rendre au désir de son collègue d'Allemagne, il prie le Président de mettre aux voix séparément les deux alinéas de sa motion.

Le Président met aux voix la première partie, laquelle est ainsi conçue:—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission constate qu'à cause des difficultés suscitées par certaines autorités Russes, et à cause de l'état d'excitation de la population, elle n'a pas pu mettre en œuvre les stipulations de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin; et, pour décharger toute sa responsabilité, elle attire l'attention des Cabinets sur cette déclaration."

M. de Braunschweig s'abstient.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie votent pour.

Les Commissaires de Russie votent contre.

La première partie de la motion est acceptée.

Le Président met aux voix la seconde partie qui est ainsi conçue:—

"En même temps elle prie M. Schmidt de continuer ses fonctions dans la mesure où il pourra les exercer jusqu'à ce que la Commission soit dissoute."

Tous les Commissaires acceptent, à l'exception de ceux de Russie, qui s'abstiennent.

La seconde partie de la motion est acceptée.

Le Président, au nom de la Commission, réitère à M. Schmidt la prière qui lui a été faite de rester à son poste.

M. Schmidt remercie la Commission de ce que cette prière a de flatteur pour lui. Comme il croit que quitter son poste après les témoignages de confiance qui lui ont été donnés serait une désertion, il y restera; mais il déclare qu'il décline toute responsabilité, et qu'il continuera simplement à remplir les fonctions de Comptable et de Caissier jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été remplacé.

M. de Kallay dit que la Commission est reconnaissante à M. Schmidt de ce qu'il veut bien rester à son poste. Il comprend qu'il est impossible à M. Schmidt d'être un vrai Directeur des Finances, et il le prie de dire s'il pense que, dans le cas où l'appui lui manquerait pour faire rentrer certains impôts, il pourrait, avec l'argent qui lui reste en caisse, continuer à suffire aux services de la province jusqu'au 3 Mai.

M. Schmidt répond affirmativement.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la séance, fixée au 26 Mars:—

1. La continuation du débat sur les Chapitres XII et XIII: "Milice Locale et Gendarmerie;"

2. Le Chapitre XIV: "Organisation de la Propriété Foncière."

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 226.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 188.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 28, 1879.*

ASSIM PASHA gave me a message on Saturday from Carathéodory Pasha, asking me to call to-day early.

I consequently went to the Porte and had a long conversation with his Excellency.

I urged him to press on the arrival of Aleko Pasha, who, he said, was loitering on the way. He was only to leave Vienna on Wednesday. I pointed out that Saturday next was the 3rd May, and I suggested that a telegram should be sent at once to Aleko Pasha, to urge him to leave at once, and that a steamer should be dispatched for him to Varna.

Carathéodory Pasha immediately sent to inform the Grand Vizier of my suggestion, which was adopted.

I then urged on his Excellency the publication of a Proclamation, such as I had proposed in my Memorandum to the Sultan. I told him that I had positive proof of the activity of the Slav Societies, to oppose which nothing was done.

It should be clearly shown that the Statute was not to follow the fate of Hatti-Houmayouns and other excellent Ordinances, which were obsolete as soon as they were published, but that the Sultan recognized his engagements, both towards the people of the province and to the Powers of Europe, and that he would faithfully carry them out. I also suggested that the Proclamation should promise the extension of the Roumelian Statute to the other parts of European Turkey.

I grounded my opinion on the considerations I have already brought before your Lordship.

His Excellency agreed with me in principle, but said there were technical difficulties in the way of a Proclamation. This would accompany the Firman. The Statute was not yet translated, and, before reading it, the Sultan would not consent to the publication of the Proclamation.

I then urged that, as no time was to be lost, the substance of such a Proclamation should be inserted in a Government newspaper, and with such a stamp of authenticity as should persuade the Bulgarians to believe in the sincerity of the Sultan's intentions.

This his Excellency promised should be done at once.

His Excellency then expressed great fears at the prolonged residence at Philippopolis of Prince Tzeretelew. He had been so long mixed up in Bulgarian matters that his stay there would be a great danger. He had found that the Berat was on the point of being issued and had stopped it, and asked me what I thought should be done.

I replied that if he could persuade the Russians to withdraw Prince Tzeretelew, is not being a *persona grata*, it would be a good thing; but refusing an exequatur

abruptly was so strong a measure that I could not give an opinion on the expediency of adopting it.

His Excellency asked me what should be done if annexation were proclaimed.

I said that, to avoid this, Aleko Pasha should be sent up at once with the Commission, so that he should enter on his functions while the Russians were still at Philippopolis without leaving any gap between the departure of General Stolipine and the assumption of his functions by the new Governor-General.

His Excellency asked me if I knew anything of the chances of the candidates for the Principality of Bulgaria.

I replied that I had heard from Mr. Palgrave that there was no chance of Aleko Pasha or any of his family being elected. Beyond this I knew nothing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 227.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 189.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 29, 1879.*

IN consequence of a proposal made at a former sitting by Prince Tzeretelew for a vote of money to pay the officers now being placed in the Roumelian militia by the Russian authorities, the Ottoman Commissioners announced yesterday that new Firmans had been issued for Colonel Vitalis and Colonel Borthwick.

I then related the incident reported to me by the former of the conduct pursued towards him by General Stolipine, and of the language employed by his Excellency. Against this I formally protested in the name of Her Majesty's Government, as being contrary to the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Tzeretelew admitted the fact, but denied that the Commission was competent to discuss the question, while the language used by General Stolipine to Colonel Vitalis was confidential.

I replied that the discussion of the question was relevant to that raised by Prince Tzeretelew, and that any language employed by high Russian functionaries, calculated to infringe the Treaty of Berlin, could not be considered confidential.

M. de Kallay supported my views.

Prince Tzeretelew then referred to the proposal made by him at our fifty-ninth sitting, that the Commission should draw up a "règlement" for the transitory period.

This proposal did not meet the views of all the Commissioners, to many of whom it appeared that an arrangement of this kind should be left to an understanding between the Russian Government and the Porte. After a desultory conversation, the Declaration, copy of which is inclosed, was proposed by Baron de Ring, and adopted by all the Commissioners, except those of Germany and Turkey.

M. de Braunschweig did not oppose it, but refrained from joining in it, thinking the words "émet le vœu" overstepped the competency of the Commission.

The Ottoman Commissioners did not express any objection, but, not being instructed, simply undertook to submit the Declaration to the Porte.

Assim Pasha told me privately that he was afraid of taking any step in this regard while negotiations were going on between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia.

The Declaration appeared to me very innocent, and, as a refusal to adopt it would at once have been turned to account by the Russians, I accepted the proposal.

I then proposed that a sitting should be held for the discussion of the demand by Russia for 23,000,000 fr. for the expenses of the occupation.

This was vehemently opposed by Prince Tzeretelew, who eventually declined to attend any meeting on the subject until the return of Colonel Schepelew.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Declaration.

LA Commission Européenne justement préoccupée de l'inconvénient de laisser la Roumélie Orientale sans administration régulière et sans force armée organisée au moment du départ des corps d'occupation Russes, émet le vœu que la Sublime Porte s'entende avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie à l'effet de régler le mode de remise des services civils, ainsi que du commandement de la milice locale et de la gendarmerie par les autorités actuelles à celles qui seront chargées de la remplacer.

Il ressort des débats qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission que celle-ci se reconnaît incompétente pour trancher les questions multiples et délicates que soulève ce problème; mais qu'elle se croit autorisée par l'esprit général de ses instructions à offrir aux mandataires des deux Gouvernements, directement intéressés, son concours officieux, pour étudier les questions dont il s'agit et pour prendre en même temps les mesures financières que la situation comporterait.

No. 228.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 190.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of Chapter VIII, as adopted by the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Chapter VIII of "Statut Organique" for East Roumelia.

[See "Statut Organique" as printed for Parliament.]

No. 229.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 191.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of Protocol No. 61.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Protocole No. 61.—Séance du $\frac{28\ \text{Mars}}{9\ \text{Avril}}$ 1879 (18 *Rébi-ul-Akhir*, 1296), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï, à Constantinople.*

Présidence de Son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LE Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Abro Effendi : "Nous avons reçu de la Sublime Porte des instructions sur trois des points du Statut réservés par nous. Nous communiquerons tout d'abord à la Commission l'opinion du Gouvernement Impérial sur l'Article 1er du Chapitre VII.

"La participation de la Roumélie Orientale, dans la proportion de trois dixièmes de ses revenus, aux charges générales de l'Empire, paraît insuffisante à la Sublime Porte parce que cette participation n'est pas en rapport avec l'étendue des ressources de la province. Néanmoins, par esprit de conciliation et pour ne pas retarder la solution de nos travaux, le Gouvernement que nous avons l'honneur de représenter nous a chargés de demander une modification si peu importante qu'il n'est pas douteux pour nous que la Commission y adhère. Cette modification tend à faire participer la province aux charges générales de l'Empire dans une proportion de 35 pour cent.

"Nous avons en outre reçu l'ordre de demander à la Commission de supprimer dans le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 5 du premier Règlement annexée au Chapitre des Finances les mots, 'd'accord avec les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople.' Cet alinéa serait alors ainsi rédigé :—

"'Après cette deuxième période de cinq années, le Gouvernement Central et celui de la province examineront si l'état des finances de la province permet une nouvelle augmentation.'

"La Sublime Porte ne demande ce changement que parce qu'elle ne voit pas l'utilité d'une nouvelle entente à ce sujet avec les Puissances, et qu'elle trouve plus simple de laisser à la province même le soin de décider si une augmentation peut se faire.

"Nous vous prierons aussi de stipuler que la somme de £ T. 24,000, qui est prélevée annuellement sur les revenus de la province pour être remise à la Sublime Porte, soit considérée comme le minimum de ce qui sera payé chaque année au Trésor Ottoman."

M. Vernoni dit qu'en proposant que la province contribue dans une proportion de trois dixièmes aux charges générales de l'Empire, il a pris pour base les décisions de la Conférence de Constantinople, qui avait stipulé que 30 pour cent devaient être considérés comme le maximum de ce qui reviendrait au Gouvernement Central. Ce chiffre semble d'autant plus raisonnable que la Porte n'aura à pourvoir à aucune des dépenses nécessaires à la marche de l'Administration Provinciale, les frais de tous les services étant supportés par la province.

Le Prince Tzeretelew : "Lors de la discussion du Chapitre VII, mon collègue, le Colonel Schepelew, a fait ressortir nos objections contre l'Article 1er de ce Chapitre.

"La Conférence a fixé à trois dixièmes des revenus la part revenant au Gouvernement Central, et la note du Comte Andrassy a limité à 25 pour cent la participation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine aux charges générales de l'Empire. Or, d'après le Chapitre proposé par M. Vernoni, la Roumélie Orientale épargnera à l'Empire toutes les dépenses nécessitées par son administration, et paiera en outre une somme de 30 pour cent, équivalent à £ T. 240,000. Ce chiffre de £ T. 24,000 est fixé dès aujourd'hui, et la province devra toujours le payer, quel que soit le total de ses revenus. Elle le paiera pour pourvoir aux dépenses de l'armée, de la diplomatie, de la maison Impériale, &c., car tous les frais de son administration restent à sa charge."

Abro Effendi fait remarquer que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a proposé le chiffre de 35 pour cent qu'après s'être assuré que les revenus de la province sont plus considérables qu'on ne l'a cru jusqu'ici. En ne demandant qu'une augmentation de 5 pour cent sur ce qui a été admis déjà par la Commission, la Sublime Porte a voulu faire preuve de modération en évitant de créer des entraves à la marche des travaux :

"Quant à ce qui a été dit relativement aux décisions des Conférences de Constantinople," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, "je n'ai pas en ce moment le texte visé sous les yeux, mais je dois dire que ces décisions ont été prises, dans des circonstances qu'il est inutile de rappeler ici, dans un but que nous connaissons tous. Du reste, pour ne pas prolonger la discussion, je me borne à soumettre la proposition que je viens de formuler à l'appréciation de tous mes collègues."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'avant de discuter la proposition d'Abro Effendi, il tient à établir le principe qu'une modification apportée à un Article déjà voté par six Commissaires, et réservé par un des membres de la Commission, entraînerait le changement de plusieurs autres Articles se rapportant au même sujet. Le Statut Organique constituant un ensemble d'Articles liés les uns aux autres, le Prince Tzeretelew se réserve le droit de revenir sur un texte déjà voté, si celui-ci est en rapport avec un Article qui, après une nouvelle discussion, subirait un changement.

"Après le vote que nous avons tous émis à la 58e séance au sujet de presque tous les Articles restés ouverts," continue le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "le Statut devrait être considéré comme accepté dans son ensemble ; si nous admettions un vote contraire à un Article déjà accepté, il faudrait nécessairement revenir sur quelques-unes des décisions que nous avons prises."

M. de Kallay fait observer au Prince Tzeretelew que tant que certaines questions restent ouvertes, le Statut ne peut pas être considéré comme fini. Il croit qu'on peut revenir sur un Article ouvert sans qu'il soit nécessaire de modifier tous les autres, d'autant plus qu'il est possible d'arriver à une entente, en se faisant des concessions ou en tombant d'accord sur une nouvelle rédaction.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff dit que la Commission est venue à Constantinople pour aplanir des difficultés et faciliter son travail, mais non pour forcer la Porte à accepter les Articles réservés par ses Délégués, comme cela découlerait du principe émis par le Prince Tzeretelew :—"Je n'ai jamais cru un seul moment," ajoute-t-il, "que mes collègues Ottomans seraient obligés d'accepter sans discussion les Articles restés ouverts."

M. de Kallay croit que si l'opinion du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie était admise les Délégués de Turquie devraient forcément se rallier au vote de leurs collègues. Il pense, au contraire, que chacun des membres de la Commission peut discuter, accepter, ou rejeter les propositions des Commissaires Ottomans, sans se croire pour cela autorisé à revenir sur son vote au sujet des autres Articles.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha rappelle que tout récemment à Philippopoli M. de Kallay est intervenu pour amener une entente sur plusieurs points réservés par les Commissaires de Turquie et de Russie. Parmi ces points, il s'en est trouvé qui avaient été acceptés par six Commissaires et réservés par les Délégués Russes. Si les Commissaires s'étaient alors inspirés du principe émis aujourd'hui par le Prince Tzeretelew, ils auraient déclaré qu'ils considéraient MM. les Délégués de Russie comme obligés de se rallier au vote de leurs collègues. Or, non-seulement une pareille déclaration n'a pas été faite, mais par esprit de conciliation, la Délégation de Turquie a, pour amener une entente, renoncé à l'avantage que lui assurait le vote primitif de la majorité de la Commission, en acceptant pour certains Articles le point de vue des Délégués de Russie.

"Je trouve," ajoute son Excellence, "le principe qui vient d'être émis d'autant plus qu'il ferme la porte à toute discussion. Aussi je crois qu'il devient inutile de vous communiquer nos instructions sur les Articles réservés. Je dois néanmoins dire à mon

collègue de Russie combien je regrette que nous n'ayions pas été prévenus à temps de l'inutilité de toute réserve : alors nous aurions peut-être agi de façon à ne laisser ouvert aucun point du Statut."

Le Baron De Ring pense qu'il faudrait, avant tout, connaître les propositions des Commissaires de Turquie. Il fait remarquer au Prince Tzeretelew que celui-ci n'a pas, lors de la démarche faite par M. de Kallay pour amener une entente sur les Articles restés ouverts, subordonné son vote sur ces Articles à la décision que prendraient ultérieurement les Commissaires de Turquie, et qu'il aurait dû alors déclarer qu'il n'accepterait aucun changement. Il ajoute que si la Commission abondait dans le sens du Prince Tzeretelew, il serait impossible de parvenir à une entente, et qu'il faudrait laisser aux Gouvernements le soin de décider eux-mêmes.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il regrette de ne pas avoir été mieux compris. Il n'a pas contesté aux Commissaires de Turquie le droit de faire des contre-propositions, comme il n'a pas non plus prétendu les obliger à accepter tels quels les Articles réservés par eux. Il a voulu seulement établir que les changements faits aux textes des Articles restés ouverts peuvent entraîner des modifications dans plusieurs autres passages déjà votés du Statut. Si aujourd'hui la Commission décidait que la quote-part à payer par la province à l'Empire sera de 80 ou 90 pour cent, il serait tout naturel que l'on revînt sur les Articles dans lesquels il a été établi que les frais de l'Administration ne sont pas à la charge du Gouvernement Central.

Quant aux Articles restés ouverts, à la demande des Délégués de Turquie, le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie partage l'opinion du Baron de Ring qu'il faudrait connaître toutes les propositions nouvelles des Commissaires Ottomans avant de prendre une décision.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff et *M. de Braunschweig* croient aussi qu'il serait utile de connaître les propositions des Délégués Ottomans sur les autres points restés ouverts.

Le Président prie les Commissaires de se prononcer d'abord sur les propositions faites par les Délégués de Turquie au sujet des finances.

M. Vernoni déclare n'avoir aucune objection à accepter la nouvelle rédaction proposée par Abro Effendi pour le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 5 du premier Règlement sur les finances, et il prie MM. les Commissaires de Turquie de renoncer aux 5 pour cent d'augmentation sur la quote-part à payer par la province, la majorité paraissant peu disposée à accepter cette proposition.

M. de Kallay déclare être du même avis.

Les Délégués de Turquie adhèrent au désir de MM. les Commissaires d'Italie et d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Président, après avoir constaté que l'Article 1er du Chapitre VII se trouve définitivement voté, les Commissaires de Turquie ayant retiré leur réserve, met aux voix la nouvelle rédaction du deuxième alinéa de l'Article 5 du premier Règlement sur les finances, qui se trouve ainsi conçu :

"Après cette deuxième période de cinq années, le Gouvernement Central et celui de la province examineront si l'état des finances de la province permet une nouvelle augmentation."

La Commission adopte.

Abro Effendi propose, au nom de son Excellence Assim Pacha et au sien, la rédaction suivante de l'Article 12 du Chapitre XI sur les Cultes, qui était resté ouvert par suite de la réserve faite par les Commissaires Ottomans :

"Art. 12. Les Prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non Musulmanes, qui recevaient précédemment leur investiture de la Sublime Porte, la recevront désormais soit de la Sublime Porte, soit du Gouverneur-Général, qui la leur accordera au nom et par délégation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan."

Le Président met aux voix cette nouvelle rédaction, qui est adoptée.

Abro Effendi dépose une nouvelle rédaction de l'Article 21 du Chapitre I, relatif à l'emploi des langues dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Cet Article, après un échange d'idées, est adopté dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 20. Les principales langues du pays—le Turc, le Bulgare, et le Grec—sont employées dans la province par les autorités et par les particuliers dans leurs relations avec les autorités, selon les règles suivantes.

"Les autorités administratives et judiciaires des départements, cantons, et communes pour leurs actes, jugements, correspondances, et publications, se servent de la langue de la population qui est en majorité relative dans leurs circonscriptions respectives, à moins qu'il n'y existe une minorité égale pour le moins à la moitié de cette majorité, auquel cas la langue de cette minorité est employée concurremment avec celle de la majorité.

"Les autorités administratives et judiciaires centrales et départementales, pour leur correspondance avec les autorités qui leur sont subordonnées, se servent de la langue usitée par la majorité de la population dans les circonscriptions des dites autorités subordonnées.

"Le Turc est la langue officielle des autorités de la Roumélie Orientale pour leurs relations avec la Sublime Porte et avec les autorités des autres parties de l'Empire.

"Les lois destinées à être promulguées dans la province, les Arrêtés, circulaires, et publications du Gouverneur-Général, ainsi que les Arrêtés, circulaires, et publications du Secrétaire-Général et des Directeurs-Généraux intéressant toute la Province, sont rédigés en langues Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque.

"Devant les Tribunaux, les particuliers ont le droit de se servir de l'une des trois langues principales à leur choix.

"Tout Arrêt ou Jugement doit être officiellement traduit dans celle des trois langues indiquée par la partie intéressée qui en réclame la traduction."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe la prochaine séance au 15 Avril.

La séance est levée à 6 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

No. 230.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 192.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 185 of the 28th instant I forwarded to your Lordship a copy of the "Maritza," containing an account of General Skobeleff's review at Slivno.

Inclosed are copies of the "Philippopolis" newspaper, giving further details of these manœuvres.

These seem to have exceeded very much the requirements of a local militia and national guard, destined to maintain the internal order and tranquillity of the province.

Mr. Walpole telegraphs me from Philippopolis that yesterday General Stolipine held a review at that town of 20,000 troops, militia, and Gymnastic Societies.

The proceedings of these two Panslavist Generals stand out in vivid contrast to the language of the Emperor himself, who, in answer to addresses of congratulation sent to His Majesty by the Bulgarian Exarch, telegraphs as follows :—

"I cordially thank your Beatitude for the warm sentiments expressed in your two telegrams in the name of the clergy, the population, and the militia of Eastern Roumelia. I ardently desire that this country is on the way to being appeased and tranquillized, and that it will develop itself by means of the governmental arrangements, so as to arrive as much as possible at full prosperity."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of April 26, 1879.

SOUS le commandement du Général Skobeleff, une grande parade et des manœuvres militaires ont eu lieu a Slivno Dimanche dernier, 20 courant.

Dès 9 heures du matin, les troupes, au nombre d'environ 15,000 hommes, étaient massées dans la Plaine de Kavastopoli, située à peu près à 1½ kilomètre de la ville. L'armée était composée de la manière suivante: de 10,000 hommes de la Garde Nationale (école de gymnastique); de 3,000 hommes de la Droudjina; de 300 hommes de la cavalerie Bulgare régulière; de 400 cavaliers irréguliers; et enfin de deux et demi batteries Russes. Les Gardes Nationaux n'ont pas encore d'uniforme. Ils étaient commandés par des officiers Bulgares, à part cependant les évolutions trop difficiles, qui étaient dirigées par des officiers Russes.

Tous les élèves de l'Ecole Realnoout-Chilisté, âgés de 11 à 15 ans, armés de fusils, Martini enlevés aux Turcs à Chipka, s'étaient rendus les premiers. On raconte que nouveaux Achille, ils n'avaient fermé l'œil de toute la nuit. Ils ont sollicité l'autorisation de participer aux manœuvres, mais en considération de leur inexpérience et des dangers auxquels ils pouvaient être exposés, leur demande a été rejetée.

Le Général Skobeleff, monté sur un magnifique cheval blanc, est arrivé vers les 10 heures. Il était accompagnée de plusieurs généraux et de son Etat-Major.

La fête a commencé pas une messe solennelle qui a été célébrée au milieu du camp.

Après cette cérémonie, il a été procédé au tir à la cible. On a d'abord commencé à une distance de 1,000 mètres et, graduellement, on s'est rapproché jusqu'à 75 mètres. Chaque soldat a brûlé trois cartouches, 25 pour cent des balles ont atteint le but. Les troupes ont été ensuite disposées en ordre de bataille. Il s'agissait de s'emparer d'un monticule, situé au fond de la plaine, et sur lequel on supposait l'ennemi. Les pionniers, à proportion que l'armée s'avançait, ouvraient des tranchées et aplanissaient les chemins pour faciliter surtout la marche de l'artillerie, qui, par un feu soutenu, protégeait la cavalerie, la Droudjina, et la Garde Nationale. Une fois presque au pied du dit monticule, l'ennemi, supposé délogé et se sauvant par le flanc opposé à celui qui avait supporté l'attaque, l'armée a été dédoublée; la cavalerie, à fond de train, a éxécuté un mouvement à droite pour charger les fuyards; la Droudjina et la Garde Nationale, manœuvrant à gauche, sont venues leur couper la retraite ou les prendre entre deux feux croisés. Enfin la bataille était gagnée sans morts ni blessés de part ni d'autre.

Un défilé devant le Général Skobeleff et le saut de la haie, exécuté par la cavalerie régulière, ont terminé cette fête militaire, favorisée par une magnifique journée.

No. 231.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

SOME time ago I learnt that the Greek Archbishop of Philippopolis had been asked to promote the signature of a petition in favour of the nomination of M. de Coutouly to the post of Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

He had applied for instructions to the Patriarch, whose answer was not encouraging, and the proposal fell through.

Last night the Italian Minister told me that the Greek Minister had been urged by M. Fournier, before his departure, to recommend the Greek Communities in Eastern Roumelia to support M. de Coutouly's pretensions.

This Count Corti had learnt from the Greek Minister himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 232.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 194.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

I HAD a short conversation yesterday with M. Tarin, one of the French Legal Advisers of the Porte.

I expressed to him a hope that the Organic Statute might at once be extended to the other European provinces. He said that this was entirely his opinion. He had been named a member of a Commission to draw up the reforms pointed out in Article XXIII, and had suggested that the Roumelian Statute should be altered as far as local conditions required, and at once applied to the other provinces.

By this means not only would the other provinces be satisfied, but Eastern Roumelia would no longer be in a state of isolated privilege. It would be exactly in the same position as the other provinces, and the Empire would reap benefit from the consolidation.

As we have provided in the Statute for the election of members from Eastern Roumelia to any future Constitutional Chambers, it would clearly be of advantage to the Porte that all its provinces should be represented on the same basis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 233.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 195.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

I YESTERDAY had an interview with the Greek Patriarch.

His Holiness received me with great cordiality. I began the conversation by expressing the sympathy felt by Her Majesty's Government for the Greek race, and my hope that the arrangements made in Eastern Roumelia were considered satisfactory to his nation.

I also said that we had found some difficulty in supporting their rights, owing to the fact that they constituted only a small minority of the population.

His Holiness declared himself quite satisfied with what had been done, and altogether with our Statute.

I then proceeded to discuss with his Holiness the position of the Exarch and the Bulgarian Church, pointing out that the possibility of their becoming Uniats was seriously discussed.

In such case, I said, they would become under the protection of France and then become a very considerable, not to say formidable, body.

His Holiness replied that he had no fear of the Bulgarians becoming Uniats.

Such a scheme had been tried before as the means to a political end, and had broken down.

I replied that the whole political circumstances had greatly changed, and that when the attempt had been made before, the leader of the Bulgarian Church was an old man, who had ended by retiring into a Russian Monastary, whereas the present Exarch was a man very able and full of energy.

His Holiness again declared himself confident that the Bulgarians would not become Uniats, neither would they ever be emancipated from the influence of Russia. The only means of preventing the predominance of the Slav race was to strengthen and consolidate the Greek element.

He knew that the Exarch wanted to establish himself at Constantinople and send Bishops into Macedonia.

This His Holiness considered to be warranted neither by the Firman, nor by the Berlin Treaty. It was merely giving the cover of religious freedom to political encroachment. The Firman no longer held good since recent events. The place of the Exarch was not at Constantinople, but in Bulgaria.

He feared neither the Uniat movement nor the influence to be exercised by the Exarch over the Bulgarian Communities in European Turkey when once he was settled in Bulgaria. It was against Canon Law that he should govern the Churches of one State while residing in, and subject to, another.

His place was in Bulgaria and there he should remain.

His Holiness promised me a Memorandum on this subject.

We then discussed the Organic Statute which his Holiness trusted would be at once extended, with the necessary local modifications to the other provinces of European Turkey. Unless this were done, there could be no peace or tranquility.

The Turks could not govern. Some means must be found for the people to govern themselves. The only method he could see was the immediate extension of the institutions prepared by the European Commission, and he hoped it would soon be carried out. Otherwise the whole fabric of the Empire in Europe would break down.

He feared, however, the dilatoriness of the Porte. When first elected as Patriarch, he had pressed on Safvet Pasha the urgency of restoring order to Salonica, which was in a state of anarchy. Months had passed and nothing had been done. I replied that with external political troubles and the absence of money it was difficult for Turkey to move.

His Holiness rejoined, that notwithstanding these obstacles, a little energy might have accomplished a good deal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 234.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 188 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inclose an Article extracted from the "Turquie," which appears to be the non-official notification, promised me by Carathéodory Pasha, of the intentions of the Porte with respect to the execution of the Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Extract from the "Turquie" of April 30, 1879.

LE Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, élaboré par la Commission Européenne, vient d'être approuvé par la Sublime Porte. Sous peu doit paraître l'Ordonnance Impériale de promulgation.

Ainsi, l'œuvre de la Commission Européenne va bientôt recevoir son exécution, et la Roumélie Orientale se trouvera en possession d'un régime nouveau basé sur les principes les plus larges, en ce qui concerne la faculté laissée aux habitants de contrôler la marche de tous les services administratifs de manière à garantir le libre développement des intérêts légitimes de la province.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, conscient des besoins et des aspirations qui ont présidé à l'élaboration du Statut Organique, procédera à son application sans délai, avec résolution, dans un esprit ferme et loyal.

L'œuvre par laquelle l'Europe a entendu amener dans la Roumélie Orientale un état de choses régulier porte en elle-même toutes les garanties de stabilité désirables. Les conditions dans lesquelles il a été procédé à son élaboration collective la mettent à l'abri de toute modification ultérieure en théorie aussi bien qu'en pratique.

Aleko Pacha qui est désigné, on le sait, pour occuper le poste de Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie, ne tardera pas à se rendre à Philippopoli. L'intelligence des affaires et les connaissances qui distinguent ce fonctionnaire sont autant de garanties qu'il saura, en interprète fidèle des vues éclairées de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, qui désire l'application franche et loyale des dispositions du Statut, assurer les bienfaits d'une bonne administration à la province qu'il est appelé à gouverner.

Il n'y a pas dès lors à douter que les habitants de la province elle-même, n'attachent la plus haute importance à contribuer de leur côté à faciliter la mise en pratique des nouvelles institutions que leur Souverain, d'accord avec l'Europe, leur octroie libéralement du moment qu'elles ont semblé nécessaires pour assurer l'ordre public et la prospérité dans cette partie de l'Empire. On essaierait vainement d'induire en

erreur les habitants de cette province en cherchant à accréditer l'opinion que la Sublime Porte n'attendrait qu'avec impatience le moment où, par la force des armes ou autrement, elle pourrait amoindrir les priviléges d'autonomie administrative accordés à la Roumélie Orientale.

Il ne tient en effet qu'à la population Rouméliote elle-même de rendre par son attitude pacifique et par son attachement à la légalité, non-seulement inutile mais légalement impossible, l'immixtion des forces Ottomanes dans les affaires intérieures de la province. Et quant à l'idée que la Sublime Porte verrait d'un œil défavorable les nouvelles institutions de la Roumélie Orientale, le meilleur démenti qu'on puisse lui opposer, c'est que le Gouvernement Impérial a déjà fait son profit du travail si considérable de la Commission de Philippopoli pour le règlement général qui devra être appliqué aux autres vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe.

Mieux que toutes les paroles, les faits eux mêmes se chargeront de prouver combien sont vaines les insinuations par lesquelles des esprits malveillants ou moroses voudraient diminuer l'importance ou la stabilité des bienfaits dont la Roumélie Orientale est appelée à bénéficier.

La Porte et l'Europe ont fait tout ce qui dépendait d'elles; le reste dépendra des populations elles-mêmes.

No. 235.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to communicate the substance of my telegram No. 4, dated 18th April, viz.:—

The Commission held its first sitting this day. The Russian Commissioner informed the meeting that he had received instructions from his Government to abstain entirely from voting on any questions of principle unless the Committee was unanimous.

A proposition was then made by the Austrian Commissioner that the Commission should discuss all questions on which differences might arise before their departure from Constantinople, and refer them to their respective Governments in the event of a divergence of opinion, and was carried unanimously.

The French Commissioner was then elected President.

A Russian survey of part of the frontier from Ichtiman to Kazan was laid before the Commission.

The English surveying party has been declared ready for the business of the Commission, which will apply to the Russian authorities to facilitate the work of the party.

The other members have received no instructions relative to the desirability of commencing on the Sofia frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 236.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin the substance of my telegrams Nos. 5 and 6, dated 23rd and 26th April, 1879, viz.:—

"No. 5, 23rd April, 1879.

"The German, Austrian, and Italian members of the Commission desire to refer to their Governments for instructions as to whether the clause giving a defensible [frontier] to the Sultan applies to that part of the Balkans between Deli Kantchik and Demir Kapu.

"The Russian Commissioner asserts that it is rigidly laid down by the Treaty

that the clause applies. The other members are inclined to support me if authorized to do so by their Governments, who might be moved to do so."

Telegram No. 6, 26th April, 1879:—

"The following proposition was accepted to-day by all the Commission with the exception of the French member, who probably would have acceded, and the Russian, who desired before putting it to the vote to add the condition (as a principle, not as a detail) that the extent of the rayon should be restricted to musketry fire. This I declined to admit, and the question stands postponed until the 28th instant, when, in the event of want of unanimity, certain members desire to refer to their respective Governments."

Following is in French:—

"Depuis Demir Kapu jusqu'à Kosica, afin de fixer suffisamment la phrase du Traité de Berlin 'la chaîne principale,' on entendra par ces mots, 'la ligne de partage des eaux.' En cherchant la ligne propre à la défense de la frontière, si la ligne de partage des eaux ne suffit pas à la défense de la Roumélie Orientale, elle devra être modifiée dans les points où la Commission le jugera nécessaire, en l'avançant au delà de la crête."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 237.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 16.)
Constantinople, April 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I yesterday sent you a telegram in substance as follows (No. 7):—

At the séance of yesterday the Russian Commissioner was opposed to all the others as he wished to restrict the defence, and he claimed the right of withholding his assent, even in the event of a majority voting against him, on all points which he may think to be sufficiently important.

The Austrian Commissioner considers it of no use to proceed to the frontier until rules for an absolute decision are settled, a rule such as the vote of the majority.

It is my proposition to go to the frontier and there take the vote of the majority on all points which may be in dispute, and complete the work as if the Commissioners were all unanimous, and let the Powers who dissent to make their objections.

The party for surveying started this morning for the Samacow frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 238.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 18.)
Constantinople, April 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Protocols 14 and 15 of meetings of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, the first held during the present year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 238.

Protocole No. 14.—Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le 18 Avril, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Chefket Bey,
Le Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi,
Le Capitaine Mehmet Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 30 minutes.

M. le Colonel Orero arrivé de l'avant-veille s'excuse auprès de ses collègues de n'avoir pu, pour des causes indépendantes de sa volonté, se trouver à Constantinople à la date précédemment fixée par la Commission. Il présente son adjoint M. le Capitaine d'Etat-Major Vicino Pallavicino. La Commission décide sur la demande du Commandant Lemoyne que cet officier collaborera aux travaux du Secrétariat.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow présente à la Commission M. le Capitaine d'Etat-Major Schneur, désigné par son Gouvernement pour remplacer M. le Capitaine Soubotitch.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp se faisant l'interprète de la douloureuse émotion éprouvée par tous ses collègues à la nouvelle de la mort prématurée du Colonel Home, propose à la Commission d'adresser une lettre de condoléance à sa veuve. Cette motion est adopté à l'unanimité.

M. le Général Hamley remercie ses collègues, au nom des amis du regretté Colonel Home, de ce témoignage de profonde sympathie. Il dépose ensuite sur le bureau sa commission signée par Sa Majesté la Reine et Impératrice, par laquelle il lui est conféré, comme il l'avait été précédemment au Colonel Home, pleins pouvoirs et autorité pour prendre telles mesures et exécuter tels actes nécessaires pour obtenir le résultat qu'on se propose en instituant la Commission. Il présente son adjoint M. le Capitaine d'Etat-Major Jones, qui remplira dorénavant les fonctions de Secrétaire au lieu et place du Major Ardagh.

M. le Major Comte Wedel présente la copie légalisée de la lettre par laquelle sa

nomination de Commissaire est notifiée à son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare que les pouvoirs qui lui avaient été précédemment conférés par son Gouvernement ont été modifiés par les nouvelles instructions qu'il a reçues, lesquelles lui prescrivent d'une façon générale de s'abstenir de voter dans toutes les questions de principe, sur lesquelles il n'y aurait pas unanimité d'avis, et d'en référer à son Gouvernement. Il continuera à admettre les votes de majorité pour les questions de détail.

Après quelques observations du Commandant Lemoyne et du Colonel Orero sur la portée d'un vote d'abstention et sur ses conséquences pour la marche des travaux de la Commission, le Commissaire de Russie exprime le désir que la Commission laisse un certain temps en suspens les questions de principe sur lesquelles il croirait ne pouvoir partager l'opinion de ses collègues.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp pense que la Commission tiendrait un juste compte des réserves faites par le Commissaire de Russie, si elle se résolvait à étudier sur la carte, dans ses grands traits, le tracé de la frontière, avant d'aller la fixer sur les lieux. Dans les discussions théoriques qu'entraînerait ce premier travail, toutes les questions de principe se trouveraient soulevées, les Commissaires signaleraient à leurs Gouvernements celles sur lesquelles les avis se seraient trouvés partagés, et les Chancelleries pourraient leur faire parvenir de nouvelles instructions qui les accorderaient. Le Colonel de Ripp estime qu'on arriverait facilement et rapidement à Constantinople à s'entendre sur beaucoup de points litigieux, qui, s'ils avaient été abordés pour la première fois sur le terrain, auraient pu longtemps arrêter la Commission. Le Commissaire de Russie donne son adhésion aux idées précédentes.

M. le Général Hamley fait remarquer qu'on doit fournir aux Chancelleries tous les éléments d'appréciation désirables sur les points portés à leur connaissance par les Commissaires ; il craint qu'elles se déclarent hors d'état de prendre une décision avant une visite des lieux par la Commission.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow pense au contraire que les cartes dressées par les topographes Russes permettraient à la Commission de discuter avec fruit toutes les questions de principe et aux différents Gouvernements de se former un jugement sur les points en litige.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp estime que le désaccord entre les Commissaires pourrait se produire quand il s'agira de tenir compte, dans le tracé de la frontière, de la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre sa frontière des Balkans. Or, il lui paraît impossible de se rendre sur les lieux, avant de s'être entendu sur les principes qui devront présider à la fixation du tracé. Car ce serait s'exposer à faire un travail inutile. Une entente des Commissaires et des Gouvernements lui semble donc nécessaire ; il ne lui est pas prouvé que l'opinion des Gouvernements soit faite sur le système de défense que comporte la chaîne des Balkans, et il croit opportun que les Commissaires se communiquent leurs vues sur la matière, avant que la question puisse être déférée aux Gouvernements eux-mêmes.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne ajoute que cette discussion est précisément la véritable raison d'être d'une Commission Européenne de composition essentiellement militaire, et qu'elle complétera utilement pour les Gouvernements les renseignements fournis par les nouvelles cartes Russes.

Avant que la proposition du Colonel Baron de Ripp soit mise aux voix, quelques observations sont échangées entre le Commandant Lemoyne et le Colonel Bogolubow, touchant l'impossibilité d'établir une distinction nette entre les questions de principe et les questions de détail.

La Commission clôt l'incident en adoptant à l'unanimité la proposition suivante du Colonel Baron de Ripp :—

" Avant de se rendre sur le terrain, la Commission discutera le tracé général de la frontière, en vue de déterminer toutes les questions controversées, afin que celles-ci pussent être soumises à leurs Gouvernements par ceux des membres de la Commission qui le jugeraient convenable d'après leurs instructions."

Les Commissaires estiment que la précédente résolution n'infirme en rien la règle de conduite adoptée par la Commission dans sa première séance, quand elle a décidé de prendre ses résolutions à la majorité.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne rend compte à la Commission de la façon dont le Secrétariat s'est acquitté des deux missions qui lui avaient été confiées. Il devait, au cas où les Puissances auraient approuvé le tracé de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare, adresser aux deux Gouvernements intéressés copie du travail de délimitation ; les Puissances n'ayant pas encore statué sur le dit tracé, le Secrétariat a conservé par devers lui les documents préparés. Il était également chargé de rassembler toutes les cartes capables de faciliter à la Commission l'accomplissement de sa tâche ; les recherches faites par chacun des Commissaires dans les archives de l'Etat-Major-Général de son armée n'ont donné aucun résultat fructueux ; les renseignements recueillis auprès du Colonel Bogolubow sur l'état d'avancement des travaux topographiques Russes ont été communiqués aux membres de la Commission.

A la demande du Colonel Bogolubow des remercîments sont votés au Secrétariat.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp propose à ses collègues de faire choix d'un Président pour la seconde série de ses travaux.

Après une lecture des passages des Protocoles Nos. 1 et 4 ayant trait à l'élection d'un Président, M. le Commissaire de France renouvelle la proposition faite par lui à la première séance de donner par raison de courtoisie la présidence au représentant de la Puissance territoriale.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow serait heureux de pouvoir donner cette preuve personnelle d'estime à son Excellence Tahir Pacha, mais il croit que la présidence placerait celui-ci dans l'alternative embarrassante, ou de ne pas se lancer dans le vif de la discussion sur la frontière des Balkans, pour faire œuvre de Président impartial, ou de cesser d'être impartial pour défendre la cause de son pays. Il invoque les Protocoles précités dans lesquels la question a été débattue et, selon lui, réglée.

L'argumentation précédente pourrait, fait observer son Excellence Tahir Pacha, être produite avec plus ou moins d'autorité contre les différentes candidatures, aucune des Grandes Puissances n'étant absolument désintéressée.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp présente un amendement à la proposition du Commandant Lemoyne ; il serait d'avis de maintenir la présidence au représentant de la Puissance territoriale jusqu'au départ de la Commission pour les Balkans, et de procéder alors seulement à une nouvelle élection.

M. le Colonel Orero, persévérant dans les idées exprimées déjà par lui et insérées dans les précédents Protocoles, juge que les intérêts de la Turquie sont fort engagés dans les discussions qui vont se produire à Constantinople ; tout en rendant hommage à la manière dont son Excellence Tahir Pacha s'est acquitté des fonctions présidentielles, il propose que l'élection d'un Président se fasse au libre choix, et non d'après le principe de représentation de la Puissance territoriale ou d'après celui d'ancienneté.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne reconnaît que ce mode de votation comprend implicitement les autres modes, attendu que ceux qui partageraient son sentiment voteraient avec lui pour le représentant de la Puissance territoriale ; il se rallie, en conséquence, à la motion du Colonel Orero.

Il est procédé au vote, au scrutin secret : le Commandant Lemoyne est élu Président par cinq voix contre deux données à son Excellence Tahir Pacha. Il remercie ses collègues de l'honneur qui lui est fait et exprime à son Excellence Tahir Pacha ses regrets personnels de lui succéder sur le fauteuil Présidentiel.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow met sous les yeux de la Commission les réproductions photographiques des levés exécutés dans les Balkans par les topographes Russes. Il offre d'en remettre un exemplaire à chaque Commissaire, dans le cas où ces levés seraient pris par la Commission pour base de ses travaux.

M. le Général Hamley propose à la Commission de remercier le Colonel Bogolubow de son offre gracieuse, qui est acceptée.

Sur l'invitation du Président, *M. le Commissaire de Russie* fournit quelques explications sur l'état d'avancement des travaux de la carte Russe. De Kotel à Velika-Mogila le travail est complet : il présente entre Kotel et la mer quelques lacunes qui pourront être comblées dans l'espace de six semaines, mais il faudra deux mois et demi pour achever les levés du côté de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia jusqu'à la frontière de Serbie.

M. le Général Hamley annonce à la Commission que son Gouvernement a mis à sa disposition cinq officiers, que la Commission pourrait utiliser pour faire de la topographie. Il inclinerait à penser que ces officiers pourront être chargés d'effectuer le levé régulier des parties les plus importantes de la frontière, et qu'il suffirait partout ailleurs de reconnaître le terrain déjà représenté par les topographes Russes, ce qui constituerait une vérification de ce travail. Il y aurait peut-être également lieu d'exécuter des levés de détail à grande échelle des principales passes des Balkans. Les officiers Anglais pourraient enfin être immédiatement utilisés sur la frontière Occidentale Turco-Bulgare, si la Commission abordait son travail par cette partie de la

frontière, pour tenir compte d'un désir qui sera probablement exprimé par la Commission d'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha met également à la disposition de la Commission cinq officiers topographes.

Le Président constate que jusqu'ici les Puissances ont laissé la Commission entièrement maîtresse de régler l'ordre de ses travaux, et que la Commission d'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale n'a fait aucune démarche dans le sens qui vient d'être indiqué. Il ressort du reste des renseignements fournis par le Colonel Bogolubow que les levés ne sont pas encore faits au sud d'Ichtiman. Aussi la Commission sera peut-être d'avis d'utiliser dans cette région les services des officiers topographes Anglais et Ottomans, concurremment avec ceux des topographes Russes. Mais, avant de rien décider, il importe de savoir si les opérations entreprises par ces derniers embrassent dès à présent toute l'étendue de la frontière ou seulement une fraction.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow est hors d'Etat d'éclairer à ce sujet la Commission; il est invité à demander par télégramme les renseignements qui lui manquent, au Chef du Service Topographique Russe, le Général Ernefeld, et la Commission surseoit à toute décision jusqu'à l'arrivée de ces renseignements.

M. le Général Hamley croit qu'on pourrait tout au moins se préoccuper immédiatement des facilités à accorder aux opérations des officiers topographes Anglais et Ottomans, et demander à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie de fournir à ces officiers les moyens nécessaires pour exécuter leurs travaux.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow accédant au désir de la Commission s'engage à soumettre la question à son Excellence le Prince Labanoff, mais il doit faire observer que les troupes Russes ont déjà commencé leur mouvement de retraite vers l'est, et qu'il ne serait peut-être guère possible dans ces conditions de détacher des forces importantes pour protéger les opérations des officiers topographes Anglais. Aussi, lui serait-il nécessaire de connaître la force approximative de l'escorte à fournir.

Après avoir dit que cette question pourrait plus utilement recevoir une solution dans une séance ultérieure, *le Président* invite la Commission à fixer l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance. Il lui paraît rationnel de diviser la frontière en quatre sections:—

1. De la Mer Noire à Demir-Kapu;
2. De ce point à Kosica;
3. Rectification des limites orientales de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia;
4. Frontière sud-ouest de la Principauté Bulgare;

et d'aborder à la prochaine séance la discussion de la seconde section, qui se trouve la seule pour laquelle on possède des levés Russes. Il demande au Colonel Bogolubow de distribuer à chaque Commissaire l'exemplaire qui lui est destiné, et celui-ci promet de le remettre le 20 Avril.

Le Président rappelle ensuite que l'on a laissé irrésolue la question de la délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare. Il propose, en conséquence, de fixer comme suit l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance:—

1. Délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare;
2. Etude générale de la frontière des Balkans.

La Commission adopte cet ordre du jour.

M. le Général Hamley faisant allusion à une proposition actuellement débattue par la Commission d'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, demande à la Commission de discuter la question de bornage de la nouvelle frontière.

Le Président rappelle au Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne que cette question a été résolue dans un sens négatif par la Commission dans le Protocole No. 2, et que les différents Commissaires qui ont jugé que le travail de bornage incombait à d'autres n'ont pas été désapprouvés par leurs Gouvernements. Il remarque, d'ailleurs, qu'il ne pourrait être utilement procédé à l'établissement des bornes, qu'une fois le tracé de la frontière accepté par les Puissances, et qu'il n'aurait servi de rien, par exemple, de borner la frontière actuellement encore contestée de la Dobroudja.

M. le Commissaire de Russie témoigne de sa disposition à se rallier à la majorité en ne reconnaissant aucune nécessité d'opérer dans les Balkans d'une façon différente que dans la Dobroudja.

Le Président propose à la Commission de s'en tenir à la précédente décision, et d'attendre tout au moins, pour remettre la question en discussion, une démarche officielle de la Commission d'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale. Il invite la Commission à fixer le jour de sa prochaine séance. Deux dates sont proposées, Samedi 19 et Lundi 21 Avril. Le Général Hamley, désireux de voir la Commission imprimer à ses travaux une marche rapide, propose la date la plus rapprochée; plusieurs membres,

voulant avant d'aborder le fond du débat étudier à loisir les cartes Russes, proposent la date du 21 Avril, qui est finalement adoptée par 4 voix contre 3.

La séance est levée à 4 heures 45 minutes.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) G. MARMIER.
JONES.
VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 238.

Protocole No. 15.—Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le 21 Avril, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Chefket Bey,
Le Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi,
Le Capitaine Mehmet Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Le Protocole No. 14 est lu et adopté.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha demande quelle est la durée des pouvoirs présidentiels conférés au Commandant Lemoyne; si ceux-ci expiraient au départ de Constantinople, il proposerait à la Commission de procéder sur le terrain comme procèdent les deux Commissions d'Organisation et de Délimitation de la Roumélie Orientale, en confiant la présidence alternativement à chacun des Commissaires.

La question d'impartialité devant aux yeux du Colonel Bogolubow primer toute autre considération dans le choix d'un Président, M. le Commissaire de Russie n'aurait eu aucune objection à faire à une proposition tendant à confier la présidence alternativement à chacun des Représentants des trois Puissances désintéressées: l'Allemagne,

la France, et l'Italie ; il aurait repoussé toute autre proposition. Mais la question est à ses yeux entièrement tranchée par le vote donné à la dernière séance.

M. le Général Hamley et *M. le Colonel Orero* jugent également que le Commandant Lemoyne a été nommé Président pour toute la durée des travaux de la Commission.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp ajoute que cette conclusion lui semble ressortir du rejet de l'amendement qu'il avait proposé.

En présence de ces explications, son Excellence Tahir Pacha retire son observation, et le Président déclare l'incident clos.

Lecture est donnée de la lettre de condoléance rédigée par le Secrétariat pour la veuve du Colonel Home.

Le Président, avant d'aborder les questions à l'ordre du jour, croit devoir revenir sur le sujet resté inépuisé des facilités et protection à accorder aux opérations sur le terrain par les autorités territoriales. Une certaine partie de la frontière n'a jamais été occupée par les Russes, et l'on ne saurait se contenter de la démarche que le Colonel Bogolubow a bien voulu faire auprès de l'Ambassadeur de Russie et dont il rendra compte à la Commission ; mais il peut être utile de saisir de la question le doyen du Corps Diplomatique de Constantinople, afin qu'il provoque une entente des différents chefs de mission et leur intervention auprès des autorités locales.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow a trouvé son Excellence le Prince Labanoff désireux de faciliter l'œuvre de la Commission, en fournissant une escorte aux officiers qui pourraient être envoyés par elle dans les Balkans d'Ichtiman ; mais il n'a pas cru pouvoir lui demander de venir pareillement en aide à la Commission dans la région du Rhodope comprise entre le Cadir-Tépé et la frontière Serbe.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha croit savoir que des pourparlers sont engagés entre son Excellence le Prince Labanoff et la Sublime Porte, et qu'il s'agirait de donner à la Commission ou à ses délégués une escorte Russe entre la Mer Noire et le Rhodope, une escorte Turque entre le Rhodope et la frontière de Serbie.

Après des explications échangées entre les différents Commissaires touchant l'utilité et l'efficacité de la démarche proposée par le Président, il est décidé que le Secrétariat soumettra à la Commission un projet de lettre.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow demande si la Commission ne pourrait pas dès à présent lui indiquer la partie de la frontière sur laquelle elle entend se transporter au premier lieu.

M. le Général Hamley dit qu'il vient de recevoir une dépêche de Lord Salisbury l'invitant à demander à la Commission de commencer ses travaux par la rectification des limites de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia. Après un court débat la Commission renvoie la décision à prendre, après l'achèvement de la discussion générale de la frontière des Balkans.

Le Président met ensuite en discussion la question à l'ordre du jour de la délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie estime que pour procéder d'une façon régulière, la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie doit adresser à la Commission la partie de son travail relative à la frontière Serbo-Bulgare. *Son Excellence Tahir Pacha*, *M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp*, et *M. le Colonel Bogolubow*, insistent particulièrement sur ce point, que la Commission n'a pas à contrôler cette délimitation, attendu que les membres de la Commission de Serbie tiennent leurs pouvoirs directement de leur Gouvernement, et que la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie ne renferme dans son sein aucun représentant de la Serbie. Ils estiment, en conséquence, que la Commission doit se borner à insérer telle quelle, dans l'instrument diplomatique fixant les frontières de la Principauté Bulgare, la partie du travail de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie intéressant la Bulgarie. *M. le Colonel Orero*, tout en partageant cette opinion, demande que l'instrument diplomatique distingue le travail de la Commission de Serbie de l'œuvre personnelle de la Commission.

La discussion est close par l'adoption, à l'unanimité, de la résolution suivante :—

"Pour se conformer aux stipulations de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin, la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie doit,—nonobstant la décision prise par elle le 21 Octobre, 1878, de se dessaisir entre les mains de la Commission de Serbie du travail effectif de la délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare,—insérer dans l'instrument diplomatique réglant les limites de la Principauté de Bulgarie le tracé de la susdite frontière Serbo-Bulgare ; il lui incombe également le soin de soumettre le dit tracé à l'approbation des Puissances.

"La Commission décide qu'elle s'abstiendra de contrôler l'œuvre de la Commission de Serbie, et qu'en incorporant cette œuvre dans son propre travail elle en laissera la responsabilité à ses auteurs.

"Communication de la présente Résolution sera faite au Président de la Commission de Serbie."

La Commission passe à la discussion générale de la frontière des Balkans.

Le Président rappelle que l'Article II du Traité de Berlin a prescrit à la Commission de prendre en considération, dans son travail, la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre les frontières des Balkans de la Roumélie Orientale. Les Plénipotentiaires de Russie avaient demandé que l'on confiât à la Commission le soin de désigner les points stratégiques que les forces Ottomanes pourraient occuper. Mais on fit observer que la Turquie, Etat Souverain, ne pouvait recevoir d'une Commission l'injonction d'adopter tel ou tel système de défense, et que la valeur des points stratégiques qui seraient désignés pourrait se modifier avec les circonstances. Le Congrès écarta donc la proposition Russe ; néanmoins il continua à faire à la Commission Européenne une obligation d'envisager la question des frontières à un point de vue militaire. Il est donc loisible à chaque Commissaire d'exprimer ses idées sur la défense des Balkans, et d'en déduire des conséquences pour le tracé à adopter. Le Président donnera la parole à celui qui la demandera.

Après un moment de silence, *le Président* invite M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne à donner son avis.

M. le Général Hamley s'exprime à peu près dans les termes suivants :—

"Je veux tâcher dans cette question de me conformer aux intentions du Congrès exprimées dans le Traité de Berlin. Je suis d'accord avec ceux des mes collègues qui demeurent convaincus que ce Traité doit être considéré, selon l'expression du Colonel Orero, comme un texte sacré. Ce Traité a voulu que Sa Majesté le Sultan ait une frontière susceptible d'être défendue. Il ne m'est guère permis de proposer des systèmes de défense, qui ne seraient peut-être pas jugés les plus convenables par le Sultan, mais je tiens à ce que ce Souverain ait le moyen de défendre à sa guise la frontière désignée par le Traité.

"Les points les plus importants à défendre étant naturellement les défilés, il faut, à mon sens, accorder au Sultan la facilité de les défendre en faisant construire des fortifications s'il le juge nécessaire. Et comme il serait inutile d'élever les ouvrages de défense dont les abords dans un certain rayon ne seraient pas commandés, on doit accorder au Sultan une étendue raisonnable autour de chacun de ces ouvrages. La Commission aura à satisfaire dans chaque cas, après une inspection du terrain, à cette exigence de la défense."

Le Président donne ensuite la parole à M. le Commissaire de Turquie, mais celui-ci demande un répit de vingt-quatre heures, afin de pouvoir formuler ses idées par écrit.

M. le Commissaire de Russie exprime alors le désir d'entendre les Représentants des Puissances désintéressées donner leur avis, mais *M. le Colonel Orero* répond que le Représentant d'une Puissance désintéressée est en quelque sorte appelé à faire acte d'arbitrage et de conciliation, qu'un arbitre ne formule son jugement qu'une fois les deux parties entendues.

Cette observation étant prise en considération par la Commission, *le Président* invite le Commissaire de Russie à prendre la parole, mais, celui-ci tout en se déclarant prêt à le faire, veut d'abord connaître l'étendue des revendications de la partie le plus intéressée—la Turquie.

La Commission, sur la proposition du Président, renvoie en conséquence la suite de la discussion au Mercredi 23 Avril.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :

(Signé) G. MARMIER.
JONES.
VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 239.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 9.*)

(No. 25. Secret.)

Constantinople, April 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I this day dispatched to the Foreign Office the following telegram in cypher:—

"Interview with my Turkish colleague of Batoum. At the meetings before my arrival he expressed views as to the trace of the frontier which coincide with my own, but he was overruled by the three Pashas who are attached to the Commission as consultative members. They should be removed. One of these, he says, is Russophil; the others are indifferent as to the result. Russian Commissioner is cunning enough to keep no Protocols, and consequently there is no record of opinion of the individual members to guide the Turkish Government in its ultimate decision.

"Caratheodory Pasha asked me to draw up a Memorandum on the project of frontier submitted by the Commission to the Porte. I have done so. The project is entirely in favour of Russia, and Turkey loses 250 square kilom. more than she should. The principle of a divergence from the Treaty of Berlin is involved, and I trust that the Turkish Government will reject the submitted project as a violation thereof. Explanatory despatch left by the messenger yesterday."

Since the Boundary Commission separated for the winter, the Porte, with the object, I presume, of strengthening the hands of its Commissioner, has appointed three Pashas to the Commission as consultative members, so that after entering the meeting-room on the occasion of the first séance I found (no previous intimation of the fact having been given either to Captain Gill or myself) that the members of the Commission consisted of the Russian Commissioner, the Russian Secretary, two Pashas (the third was absent), Shehab Bey (the regular Ottoman Commissioner), Captain Gill, and myself. As already mentioned in my telegram of the 21st instant, there was no President. The Secretary was present on the part of the Porte, and all that the Russian Secretary, who conducts himself like a Commissioner, apparently has done, is to commit to paper the detailed description of the project of frontier. There is no record whatever of the discussions which Shehab Bey states to have taken place.

From what passed between Shehab Bey and myself at our private meeting two days afterwards, the addition of those three Pashas has facilitated the Russian task. The senior, Nedjib Pasha, Sous-chef of the Staff at the Seraskeriate, is so taken up with the Committee sitting on the reorganization of the army, of which he is President, and other matters, that he pays little attention to the frontier question. The next senior, Ali Nizam Pasha, is the one who plays the principal part on the Turkish side, but he follows the lead of the Russian Commissioner in everything, and is the "Russophil." The third is Feyzy Pasha, who at one time was one of the most talented Turkish officers, but is now about seventy-five years old, and is not always present at the meetings. Shehab Bey, in whom I had, and if removed from the influence of the others I should still have, every confidence, is the one who knows Anatolia the best, and to whom the Turkish Government would have been wise in continuing to commit its interests. His opinion has, however, been over-ruled on every occasion when it has differed from the others.

Now that the British Commissioner has arrived, I would beg to submit, according to the terms of the agreement of the 12th July and the spirit of the Treaty, that these three Pashas have no *raison d'être* on the Commission, and I think that Shehab Bey, with the support I give him, would be perfectly able to safeguard the interests of Porte.

In my telegram of the 21st instant I mentioned to your Lordship that I feared that there was collusion between the interested Powers, Russia and Turkey. This impression is so far modified, that the collusion is between the Commissioners, and does not, so far as I know, reach to higher quarters. This impression is confirmed, not only by Captain Gill having been kept in the dark altogether with regard to the meetings of the Commission and their proceedings, but by the following circumstance:—At the meeting of the 21st instant, I requested to be furnished with a copy of the *pièce diplomatique* containing the project of frontier submitted to the Governments, and also a copy of the map with the frontier drawn. To this Ali Nizam Pasha, who was the chief speaker, assented. Shehab Bey told me that, after I left the room at the close of the séance to be introduced to the Minister of War, the Russian Commissioner asked him neither to give me the document nor the map. On

To face page 200

W. Gill
Capt. R.E.

To face page 200
59°30'0"
60°0'0"
40°38'20"
40°36'40"
40°15'0"
OLTI
Tebrenok
NARIMAN
R. Bardous Su.
Scale 1/31000
Verstes 2 0 2 4 6 Verstes
W Gill
Capt. E.
Kara-Ourgan

To face page 200

Long. 38° 45. 0'

Long. 39° 30. 0'

Lat. 41° 10. 0'

Lat. 41° 10. 0'

TRACING FROM MAP

showing the

PROPOSED LINE OF FRONTIER

BETWEEN THE

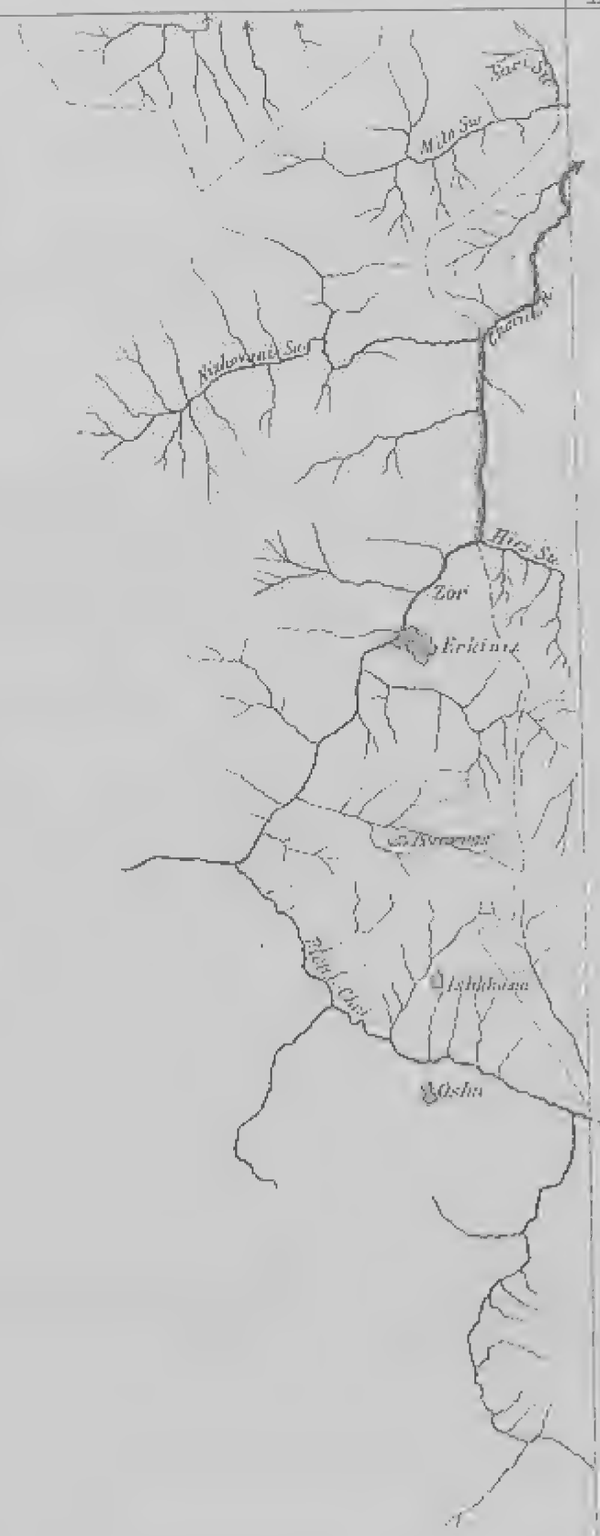
BLACK SEA AND KARAOURGAN.

Scale 1/126 000

Miles

Statute Miles

William Gill
Capt. R.E.



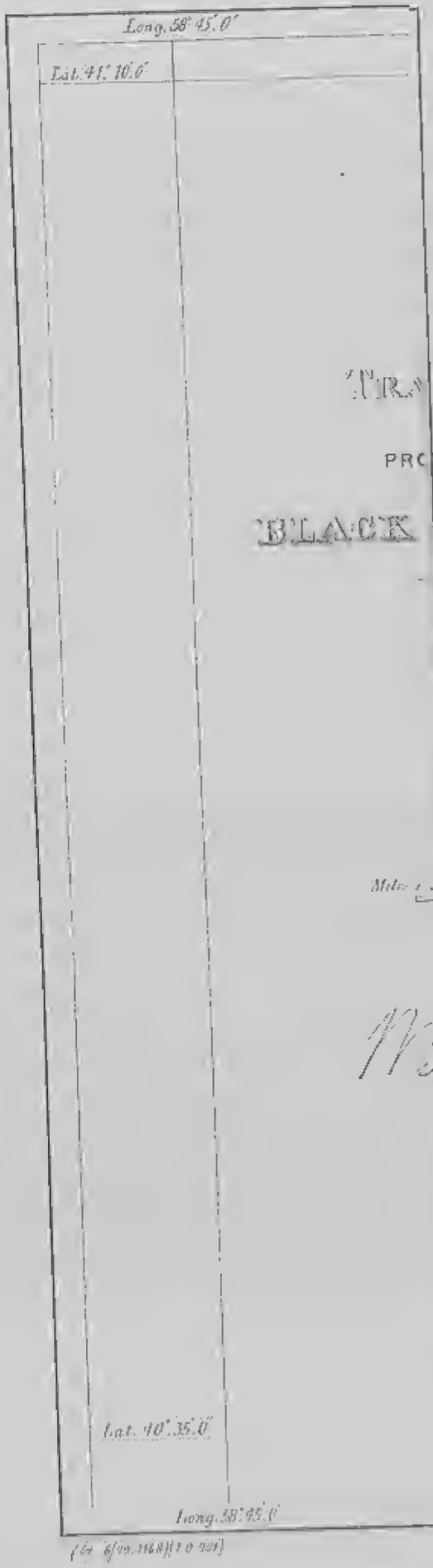
Lat. 40° 35. 0'

Lat. 40° 35. 0'

Long. 38° 45. 0

Long. 39° 30. 0

(Or 61 on 1 inch)



No. 239*.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 9.*)

(No. 28.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a tracing from the map showing the proposed line of frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan, submitted to their respective Governments by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners. The tracing has been done hurriedly, as I only received the complete map this morning, and the messenger starts this afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosures in No. 239*.

Tracing from the Map showing the proposed Line of Frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan.

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returning to the meeting room after my interview with the Minister of War, Shehab Bey gave me the map, or rather the greater portion of it, with the frontier traced, but the promised copy of the project of frontier has never reached me, although, of course, I next day saw the original sent to Carathéodory Pasha, and, as your Lordship is aware, drew up a Memorandum upon it at his request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 240.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I hope the Commission for the delimitation of the Southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia will leave Constantinople for Bourgas on the 5th May, as previously determined on.

At an official meeting held yesterday, the 28th instant, the Russian Delegate read a despatch received from the officer commanding the Russian troops at Bourgas, by which he was informed that an escort, comprising one squadron of Russian cavalry and 100 of the Eastern Roumelia militia, would be ready to accompany the Commission on the 6th proximo.

The Turkish Delegate objected to the Roumelian militia forming a part of the escort.

Though I am of opinion that no member of the Commission, except, perhaps, the Turkish or Russian, should have any voice in deciding the nationality of the escort, yet, after careful reflection, I cannot see any objection to the Roumelian militia forming a part. On the contrary, I think it would be to our advantage, as it would, probably, preclude all possibility of our being interfered with by the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia; and we may rest assured that the Turkish authorities will take steps to prevent a recurrence of what happened last year, as we were then obstructed by the inhabitants of Turkey proper, and not by those of the new province.

I trust, therefore, that the objection raised by the Turkish Delegate may be settled without difficulty, and that we may be enabled to proceed to our work without any further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 241.

Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Darmstadt, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Alexander Battenberg, who arrived at Darmstadt on the 4th instant from Potsdam, will leave again to-morrow for Livadia, at the special request of the Emperor of Russia.

It was at first expected that the Bulgarian deputation charged with the formal communication to the Prince of his election as Prince of Bulgaria would have been received by him here, but although this arrangement has now been altered, I understand that nothing has been as yet decided either as to the place or date of the reception of the deputation, and that it is not improbable that Prince Battenberg may return to Darmstadt for this purpose after his visit to the Emperor Alexander.

Prince Battenberg was received by the Emperor of Germany on Monday at Wiesbaden. I am informed that he will proceed direct to Livadia without visiting any of the other Courts of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 242.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 405.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul-General Michell, dated 6th instant:—

"[? Post of] Governor of this town offered to Ekonomoff, a schoolmaster educated in Russia, and at present serving under Dondoukoff, whose permission is awaited. The new Bulgarian Chief of the district is Rainoff, hitherto Governor of Carlova. I am told latter is not honest."

(Most Confidential.)

Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that from what Russian Ambassador has stated to him he has reason to believe that it is the intention of Russians to replace military authorities in Eastern Roumelia by Bulgarians known to be Panslavist agents and completely in the interest of Russia.

No. 243.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 410.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER tells me that report that Prince Battenberg is going to Livadia to see Emperor of Russia has rather troubled the Sultan, and he begs your Lordship to endeavour to get the Prince to visit His Majesty before going to Bulgaria. His Highness assures me that he will be received with every consideration and distinction, and that this mark of deference to his Suzerain will render future arrangements as regards the connection of the Porte with the Principality very much easier.

No. 244.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 411.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER says that, in view of difficulty of getting the French Government to name Commissioners to administer customs and indirect revenues under the scheme of the Ottoman Bank, he would be ready to name an Englishman for that duty whom the Porte would select. He did not mention who the person would be, but it might be Mr. Foster, of the Ottoman Bank. His Highness would then, by an exchange of notes or by some other means, pledge the Porte to the English and French Governments not to remove the person so appointed without previous agreement with them. His Highness desires to know whether such an arrangement would be acceptable to Her Majesty's Government and the Bank. He says the matter is very urgent, as the financial difficulties of the Porte are daily increasing. It appears to me that the proposed arrangement has many advantages over the appointment of joint Commissioners by the two Governments, if it can be carried out and proper guarantees be obtained that the person named is competent for the duty, is irremovable, and has the necessary powers.

No. 245.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 412.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Ambassador has been endeavouring to maintain that Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia should appoint functionaries for the purpose of introducing new system, and to prevent entry of Aleko Pasha on his functions for the present. It was decided yesterday by Council of Ministers to inform Russian Ambassador that last

concession Porte could make was that a Secretary-General, whose appointment is provided for by the Constitution, should proceed at once to Philippopolis with the Commission, and prepare with General Stolipine for the arrival of Aleko Pasha, appointing provisionally the public functionaries [? who are] to replace those appointed by Russians. Count Andrassy has instructed Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to give his entire support to the Porte in this matter, and to request me to do the same, which I shall do.

No. 246.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 8, 1879.*

FOLLOWING to Sir H. Layard, at Captain Sale's request:—

"Turkish Commissioner for Montenegrin frontier stated that island Gorica Topal, mentioned in both my despatches, was really named Gorica Plac in the Austrian Staff Map, the names of islands having been transposed in that map. I am assured that Montenegrin frontier should pass close to latter island, as in the map. Commission, after examination on site, having decided against him, he declares that he withdraws from work of demarcation pending instructions from Constantinople. His proposition is quite against meaning of the Treaty. Please expedite sending his instructions if possible. Sent to Foreign Office.

(Signed) "SALE."

No. 247.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 48.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen Count Schouvaloff on the question of evacuation. I maintained very earnestly that two months was the utmost that could be conceded as a reasonable time for its completion. He said that he had recommended the date to the Emperor, but had received as yet no reply.

He stated as his personal belief that whenever the Turks occupied any point in Eastern Roumelia there would be resistance, because the population had unhappily been armed, but no disturbance of European tranquillity would be the result if it was only postponed till after evacuation.

No. 248.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 58.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1879, 3:45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

DO what you can, in conversation with Sultan or Ministers, to prevent Rustem from being forced to give up Lebanon.

No. 249.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 54.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1879, 4 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOU may give Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of my No. 522 of 6th instant, respecting Greek frontier.

No. 250.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 288.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called on me on the 7th instant, on his return from Vienna.

He informed me that Count Andrassy had pressed him very earnestly to give an engagement that the evacuation should be completed before the 3rd July, that he had transmitted that proposal to Livadia with a recommendation on his part that it should be accepted, but that he had not yet received any answer to that communication.

I repeated to his Excellency the interpretation of the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which I had already given publicly. I further stated that I thought the two months proposed by Count Andrassy were quite as large an interval for the purpose of evacuation as could reasonably be conceded, and that I earnestly hoped that the Russian Government, by conforming to it, would put an end to all those suspicions of its sincere acceptance of the Treaty which were so freely circulated.

Count Schouvaloff took note of my opinion, but was unable to give any reply in anticipation of the decision of his own Government. He expressed himself satisfied with the course of the negotiations, because he believed that the understanding which had been come to by the Turks that their troops should not move into any point of Eastern Roumelia until the evacuation by the Russian army was complete had neutralized one of the principal dangers which attended the execution of the Treaty. The Emperor had said to him, he told me, when first he came back to St. Petersburgh, "at least give me time to 'dégager mon chapeau,'" and his Excellency thought that these words of the Emperor represented no passing impression, but pointed to the kernel of the difficulty which it was our task to solve. He himself believed, though he gave this only as his personal opinion, that whenever the Turkish soldiery appeared in any part of the province, whether at Ichtiman or at Bourgas, or on the Balkans, their arrival would be the signal for a rising; and as the people were "malheureusement armés," the rising would be one of serious importance. If it had taken place while the Russian army was still within the borders of Turkey, very formidable consequences might have arisen. There would have been massacres, or, at least, the generally accredited imputation of massacres, and public opinion in Russia would hardly have suffered that such things should take place, as it were, in the very presence of the Russian troops. The difficulty, therefore, would have been of the most serious kind. But if the Russian troops were allowed to withdraw, and the arrival of the Turks were deferred till their withdrawal was complete, the possibility of a rising was a matter of much less importance. The Turks doubtless would come in and the rising would be suppressed, the province would be reconquered, possibly its newly-won liberties confiscated; but all these things would be the "subject of Circulars," would merely give rise to diplomatic recrimination, and would not involve the possibility of any armed interference on the part of Russia. Once across the Pruth the Russians would find it very difficult to come back. They would either be compelled to negotiate a new Treaty of passage with the Roumanians, or, by using the sea, to confront the danger of having their communications cut off by Turkish ironclads.

I fully assented to his Excellency's view of the expediency of deferring the arrival of the Turkish troops till after the Russian troops had departed, and I thought that the views of the Turkish Government in this respect were marked by great prudence and judgment; but I desired to correct the impression which he had formed, that the result of any insurrection in Eastern Roumelia could be the confiscation of the liberties which had recently been granted. Those who made the insurrection would, of course, be liable to the fate which attends unsuccessful rebellion; but the liberties granted to the province were matters of European obligation, and Turkey had entered into an engagement to maintain them not only with Russia or with the Eastern Roumelians, but with the whole of Europe. Her Majesty's Government would certainly not acquiesce in any breach of that engagement.

Count Schouvaloff also stated to me that the Russian Government were fully agreed that the East Roumelian Commission, in deciding upon the question whether Turkish troops should be summoned for the purpose of suppressing disorder, should decide by a majority.

We then spoke of the question of Greece, and his Excellency incidentally remarked that the attitude of Russia towards the Greek question was one of comparative indifference. If any proposal was made to confer an advantage on Greece, Russia would be glad, he said, to support it; but that if that proposal should fail Russia would not lament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 251.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 322.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE had a conversation with Count Schouvaloff upon the question of the evacuation. I maintained very earnestly that the utmost limit that would be conceded as a reasonable date within which it should be completed was two months from the 3rd of this month. His Excellency assured me that he had himself recommended the Emperor of Russia to accept that date, but he said that he had not as yet received a reply to his suggestion.

He stated that he personally believed that whenever the Turks occupied any point in Eastern Roumelia they would meet with resistance, in consequence of the step which had been unfortunately taken in distributing arms among the population; but he did not consider that a disturbance of the tranquillity of Europe would result from such collisions, provided that they did not occur until after the Russian troops should have left the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 7. Political.) *Salonica, April 25, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, forwarding a translated copy of an appeal which has been addressed to the Porte by some of the leading landholders in Thessaly against the proposed cession of that province to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 252.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Mutel.

Salonica, April 25, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches of the 18th and 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that some of the leading Mussulman and landholders in Thessaly have sent a deputation to Constantinople to present an appeal to the Porte against the proposed cession of Thessaly to Greece.

I have reason to believe, from all I have heard and seen during my residence in that province, that this appeal, of which the inclosed is a translated copy, represents the feelings of the Mussulman inhabitants, particularly in regard to their vested rights.

I should also report to your Excellency my having heard, shortly before I took my departure from Larissa, that the Christian community in some of the districts of Thessaly were preparing a memorial for presentation to the foreign Representatives at Constantinople, praying that the delimitation of the Greek frontier should be carried out upon the basis proposed by the Berlin Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 252.

The Principal Landholders in Thessaly to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

A Son Altesse le Grand Vizir.

AINSI qu'il a été dès le commencement jusqu'à présent porté à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte par Mazbata général,* par lequel nous implorions sa compassion, nous lui soumettons humblement ce qui suit:

Notre patrie ancienne est le Sandjak de Tricalla,† nous tous vivons sous les auspices de l'Empire Ottoman, et chacun de nous d'après sa position obtient une sorte de moyen de vivre. En général tous nous sommes contents du Gouvernement Turc. Mais comme on entend parler publiquement que ce pays attire les regards d'avidité de la Grèce qui (Dieu nous en garde) désirerait obtenir l'objet de ces vœux; et comme des voyageurs arrivant de la Grèce pour le commerce ou pour d'autres affaires continuent à répandre de faux bruits d'après lesquels ce pays est donné à la Grèce; et que ces bruits causent un grand embarras et une forte inquiétude de toute la population Musulmane, surtout depuis qu'il a été répandu que les Commissaires Hellènes n'ayant pu s'entendre à Preveza sont retournés en Grèce, saisissant ainsi l'occasion pour persister dans leurs idées, d'après lesquelles la ligne de délimitation du Traité de Berlin serait definitivement celle qu'ils désirent. Depuis cette époque, disons-nous, tous nous sommes privés de sommeil et de tranquillité, et les yeux de nous tous versent des larmes de sang de peur que nous n'abandonnions notre sainte patrie qui a été pétrie avec le sang de nos ancêtres; et que nous ne soyons dispersés çà et là, errants et malheureux; car il est impossible que les Musulmans se soumettent à la Grèce; et il est très-difficile qu'ils abandonnent la patrie avec des soupirs et des gémissements supérieurs à ceux qu'ils auraient poussés s'ils allaient se séparer de leur âme.

C'est pourquoi, désireux de porter verbalement aussi à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte la triste situation des Musulmans et d'en solliciter la miséricorde et la compassion, nous avons envoyé à la Sublime Porte qui est notre refuge le porteur de notre pétition, Bédréddin Bey et ses collègues, qui ont été choisis exprès pour cela par la population Musulmane.

Pour l'amour de Dieu et son Prophète! Nous espérons et nous avons la ferme conviction et pleine confiance que ni Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ni son Altesse le Grand Vizir, ni les illustres Ministres ne jugeront pas convenable que personne ne soit éloignée de son pays, et que celui-ci ne passe entre les mains des étrangers.

Nous espérons qu'on trouvera un remède; que le Très-Puissant ne nous laisse pas désespérés! Toutefois, si l'on doit se soumettre à la nécessité absolue au moins comme c'est la règle internationale que les sujets d'un Gouvernement achètent des immeubles et des terres dans le territoire d'un autre; et qu'ils possèdent sans obstacles ceux qui se trouvent déjà entre leur mains, nous tous sollicitons qu'il soit conclu d'une manière sûre une Convention entre les Grandes Puissances et la Grèce, afin que celle-ci ne puisse pas faire des obstacles quant à l'Administration par fondé de pouvoir ou au louage des immeubles et des terres de ceux qui auraient émigré en abandonnant leur patrie, et qu'on puisse provisoirement posséder et cultiver leurs terres et leurs immeubles jusqu'à ce qu'ils vendent les dites terres et immeubles qui seraient situés dans les endroits qu'on sacrifierait par nécessité absolue.

Larisse, Avril , 1879.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signatures and Seals.)

No. 253.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Salonica, April 27, 1879.

My Lrod,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copies of the despatch and its two inclosures which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, relative to the band of insurgents who have recently crossed the frontier from the direction of Kustendil, in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

* Report or Memorial.

† Thessaly.

Inclosure 1 in No. 253.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir,

Salonica, April 27, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd instant, I have the honou to inclose to your Excellency copies of two telegrams from the railway station-master of Gheuvgheli furnishing some further particulars respecting the movements of the band of insurgents who lately crossed the frontier from Bulgaria.

Salih Pasha, who returned here from Demirkapou on the 25th instant, confirms the information contained in these telegrams, with this difference, that he does not believe the band numbers more than 300 men, most of whom he thinks are are Greco-Albanian or Wallachian brigands recruited in districts of Monastir, Ochrida, Florina, and other places to the north-west of Macedonia.

From what I have heard from his Excellency, and from other sources it does not appear that the Bulgarian peasants in the vicinity of the operations of the band are prepared or willing to join the movement; on the contrary, those in the district of Gheuvgheli and Demirkapou, who have not broken their connection with the Greek Church, and are more or less under the influence of the Greek clergy and Propaganda, have formed a sort of league with the Turkish villages for their mutual aid and protection; and Salih Pasha, with a view of promoting this combination, has distributed some arms and ammunition to the Bulgarians or "Bulgaro-phons," as they are called by the Greeks.

In the meantime, the military, assisted by the Turkish peasants, have had an encounter with a portion of this band of insurgents, whom they surprised in the vicinity of Klissoura; they killed thirty of them and captured one alive; while their loss amounted to only one killed, and two slightly wounded.

The remainder of the band has been forced to take refuge in the mountain forest of Sermeli, about six hours from Gheuvgheli, and Salih Pasha expects that it will be surrounded and captured or destroyed by the troops he has sent in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 253.

Telegrams from the Station Master at Gheuvgheli.

(Télégraphique.)

Gheuvgheli, le 25 Avril, 1879.

JE viens d'apprendre qu'une bande d'insurgés, au nombre de 500, commandée par Stefko, se trouve à six heures de Gheuvgheli.

C'est la même bande qui s'est battue près de Demirkapou, car ils ont des blessés avec eux.

Ils attendent des renforts qui arrivent par petit nombre. Ils se réunissent dans la forêt de Sermeli.

Un des négociants des bois a reçu une lettre en Grec, que je viens de lire, lui intimant de leur envoyer du tabac et des "Tchiarouks"* pour leurs Chefs. Ils le menacent, s'il n'envoie pas ces objets, de lui brûler les bois qu'il a coupé.

Ils sont très-bien armés avec des fusils Martini. Rien d'autre pour le moment. Je vous tiendrais informé de tout ce que j'apprendrais.

(Télégraphique.)

Gheuvgheli, le 26 Avril, 1879.

Hier il y a eu un Grand Conseil pour pourvoir à la défense du pays.

Une ligue entre les Chrétiens et les Turcs s'est formée à Gheuvgheli contre les insurgés. Un corps de Bashi-Bozouks doit se former aujourd'hui composé des Bulgares et Turcs. Tous les villages doivent envoyer des secours. Les insurgés occupent les mêmes positions.

Ils ont envoyé chercher des médicaments pour leurs blessés.

* Sandals.

No. 254.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 71. Political.)
Scutari, April 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter just received by me from Voïvoda Radonich, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, as also the copy of the telegram which his Excellency informs me was addressed by Prince Nicholas to the Sultan.

Although Voïvoda Radonich states that he merely communicates the Prince's telegram to me in order to prove to me His Highness' anxiety to commence friendly relations with the Porte, still I have no doubt that it was hoped British influence would be immediately used to induce the Turkish Government not to insist on the preliminary despatch of a Montenegrin Representative to Constantinople. I think, therefore, that it is fortunate the letter was delayed by bad weather in reaching me, as Prince Nicholas will probably have had time to reflect, without being able to attach any want of courtesy on my part for not communicating the step he had taken to Mr. Malet, that the course I had been authorized to suggest to him was the most dignified and expeditious for removing the obstructions which have, to their mutual disadvantage, hitherto kept apart the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 254.

M. Radonich to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Avril*, 1879.

Mon cher Mr. Green,

COMME j'ai eu le plaisir de vous s'écrire dans ma dernière lettre, Son Altesse le Prince Nicholas n'a pu, malgré son vif désir, mettre à exécution l'idée que vous lui avez suggéré relative à l'envoi d'un Agent à Constantinople.

Nos finances étant malheureusement très-éprouvées, ne nous permettent pas ce surcroit de dépense, et nous nous sommes vu forcés de nous servir de l'obligeant intermédiaire d'une Puissance amie. D'après nos dernières informations le Prince Labanoff a déjà fait des démarches auprès de la Porte dans ce sens.

Malgré cette seconde avance faite de la part de Son Altesse, la Sublime Porte continue à se renfermer dans le silence, et se plaît sans aucun doute à attribuer à cette seconde démarche une fausse interprétation.

Nous avons eu le regret de la constater aussi en ce qui concerne le télégramme de Son Altesse adressé à Sa Majesté le Sultan lors de la remise de Podgoritza est resté sans réponse. Ce procédé, que j'hésiterais à qualifier, aurait pu arrêter les démarches de tout autre que le Prince.

Sans vouloir m'étendre davantage sur les prétendues considérations que la Sublime Porte invoque en faveur de sa retenue, et dont vous êtes à même de pouvoir juger le fondement, je viens aujourd'hui vous informer que Son Altesse, laissant de côté toute considération personnelle, et ayant avant tout à cœur la reprise immédiate des rapports d'amitié et de bon voisinage entre le Monténégro et la Turquie, a fait une nouvelle tentative dans ce but, et vient se saisir avec empressement l'occasion que lui offrait la naissance de son fils pour envoyer à Sa Majesté le Sultan un télégramme dont j'ai le plaisir de vous joindre copie, et qui exprime, comme vous le verrez, les intentions les plus sincèrement cordiales.

Si je vous adresse, cher Mr. Green, ces quelques détails, c'est que je tiens à soumettre à votre excellent et impartial jugement l'état actuel des relations entre nous et les Turcs.

Vous pourrez donc apprécier si la Sublime Porte persiste dans sa politique de méfiance et d'hostilité de quel côté sont les torts et si pour sa part le Monténégro n'a pas agi en toutes circonstances selon les règles d'une franchise absolue et d'une courtoisie à toute épreuve.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) V. RADONICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 254.

The Prince of Montenegro to His Majesty the Sultan.

(Télégraphique.)
Le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Avril*, 1879.

SON Altesse la Princesse Miléna, ma femme, est heureusement accouchée d'un fils. Je me fais un agréable devoir d'en faire part à votre Majesté, et je suis heureux de saisir cette occasion pour vous réitérer, Sire, les sentiments de la plus haute estime que je n'ai jamais cessé de professer envers votre Majesté, et du vif désir que j'ai de voir les relations d'amitié et de bon voisinage s'établir entre le Monténégro et le puissant Empire de votre Majesté.

No. 255.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 9. Political. Confidential.)
Corfu, May 6, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 6, Political, of the 13th March, I expressed my intention, on a future occasion, of referring to certain recent disclosures on the part of the notorious Colonel De Becker, in relation to the political intrigues in which he was engaged as a Russian Agent previous to and during the late Russo-Turkish war.

2. I used my best endeavours to condense the copious materials at my disposal within reasonable limits, but with so little success that, although drawn up as far back as the 21st March last, I have hesitated to trouble the Department with lengthy details which, by the subsequent course of events, had lost much of their original importance.

3. But matters, if impressions which have begun to prevail here, are to be trusted, are again about to assume a warlike aspect, and strong suspicions are entertained that a hostile demonstration is being prepared on the opposite coast of Italy, with Upper Epirus for its object.

4. In connection with this suspected movement, therefore, I have now the honour to report that De Becker, in consequence of intelligence received by the Italian mail steamer of the 29th ultimo, started on the following day for Bari, furnished with a letter of introduction to the Prefect from the Italian Consul here.

5. As a knowledge of the characters of the men to be dealt with is, in this quarter of the world, more than half the battle, I presume, at the risk of being set down as intolerably tiresome, to submit to your Lordship the inclosed Report, so long kept in reserve, respecting De Becker's capabilities as a political agitator. As regards his religion he is a zealous Roman Catholic, and hence the fittest man possible to act on the Mirdites, whose leanings towards Italy are well known, as is their dislike of Montenegrins, Servians, and Slavs of all shades and denominations, to whom they greatly prefer the Turks, whose faithful allies they have been since the days of Scanderbeg.

6. I most sincerely trust I have now washed my hands of the Russian Colonel, and with the highest respect, I have, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Confidential.)
Corfu, March 24, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship on the 13th instant (No. 6, Political) I had occasion to refer to the part attributed in the pamphlet recently published by the notorious anti-Turkish agitator Leonidas Bulgari, to the Russian Colonel de Becker, ex-Chief of the Staff to General Tchernaieff, as an active agent in the negotiations, commencing from the latter months of the year 1876, with the object of engaging Greece as an ally in the Panslavist schemes for revolutionizing the European provinces of Turkey.

2. Thus unmasked, de Becker has thought it due to himself to tell his own tale, and this he has done in various well written articles, addressed to the "Nea Emera," one of

the weekly journals published in Greek at Trieste, with copies of which I have been furnished by himself.

3. Drawing, therefore, from this authentic source, we gather that he was employed as the accredited Agent of the Servian Government to negotiate an offensive and and defensive alliance with Greece, against Turkey, their common enemy. Coumoundouros, who was then in power, entered, we are told, into the scheme with great apparent alacrity, but, as a preliminary to action, required an advance of 500,000 fr. in aid of the necessary military preparations. But the Servian Government, having failed in obtaining a projected loan, could not afford so large an amount. M. Ristich was therefore compelled to limit the contribution to 20,000 fr. This sum, with many apologies, the Colonel was commissioned to offer to Coumoundouros, by whom it was accepted, on the principle, no doubt, that "half a loaf is better than no bread."

4. After this, de Becker, as the Agent of the Servian Government, went on a mission to Montenegro, with the view of effecting a combined movement against the Turks. The Montenegrins desired nothing better, but the difficulties in the way of forming a junction were found to be insurmountable, and the projected union had to be abandoned.

5. The next move was more successful. An appeal to the Emperor Alexander, through General Ignatieff, in the name of no fewer than sixty-four independent Hellenic chieftains, praying to be furnished with the means of co-operating with the Servians in the event of a renewal of war with the Turks, resulted in a grant by the Russian Government of 10,000 stand of arms in furtherance of the proposed object. The arms were intrusted to the care of de Becker, and, after endless delays and difficulties encountered in the transport, were at last successfully landed at the Piræus, where ultimately, instead of being distributed among the expectant "patriots," by an order received from the Russian Minister of War, they were consigned to the Greek Government, much to the Colonel's disgust, for by this time he had seen sufficient to convince him that no reliance could be placed on the warlike professions of the Greek Ministry.

6. "This vacillating, heartless policy, fatal alike to the interests of Hellenism and Oriental Christianity," the Colonel attributes entirely to the selfish counsels of the British Government, bent on maintaining the integrity of the Turkish Empire at any price; yet, after all, he finds that in this respect our policy is not altogether indefensible, and explains himself thus: "The interests of his own country constitute the supreme law which ought to govern the policy of every statesman. If in the practical application of this principle the interests of other parties should be sacrificed, the deceived is more blameworthy than the deceiver."

In a friendly discussion on this head, I denied the imputation *in toto*, declaring that in any case I regarded the apology as less capable of being defended, on the score of moral rectitude, than the imputed action, adding, jokingly, that I had nowhere met with any political maxim equally latitudinarian, except in the "Science des Princes" of Naudé, the eulogist of Mary dei Medici and of her worthy son Charles IX, that, in short, it was only to be effectually combated by one other "raison d'état," the "Ultima ratio Regum," the arbitrament of the sword!

In this conclusion the Colonel quite agreed with me, and we separated as good friends as ever. But he is not loitering at Corfu for nothing, and it may be well to watch his future movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 256.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord,

Rome, May 6, 1879.

IN an interview which I had with M. Depretis this morning, his Excellency informed me that he had sent to the French Ambassador the day before yesterday the answer of the Italian Government to the recent proposal of the French Government upon the Greco-Turkish frontier question. The proposal, his Excellency said, had been accepted in principle, but reserves had been made upon the main question ("la question de fond"), namely, as to the line of frontier to be given to Greece, and also as to the method by which the mediation of the Representatives at Constantinople was to be exercised. His Excellency added that this reply, which he believed was in conformity with that returned by the Austro-Hungarian Government, had appeared to the French Ambassador fair and reasonable.

M. Depretis then produced a map showing the actual Greek frontier, the line proposed by the Congress, the counter-proposal of the Turks, and a line suggested by M. Goubernatis, who, I should mention, is now in Rome. The line of M. Goubernatis gives the whole of Thessaly up to Mount Olympus to Greece, proceeds westwards to a point some little distance from Janina, and then descends to Arta by the Valley of Aspropotamus, which is included in the cession to Greece. This concession, according to M. Depretis, will give to Greece a homogenous Greek population, and will thus afford her every security for internal peace and the maintenance of good relations with Turkey. It will substitute a mountain frontier for one of water-courses and streams, and would consequently, in his Excellency's opinion, give to Greece a defensible instead of an indefensible boundary.

His Excellency promised to give me a copy of this map, and I may possibly receive it in time for the messenger next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 257.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 502.)
My Lord,

Paris, May 8, 1879.

I HAVE this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 622 of the day before yesterday, expressing the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the proposal made in M. Waddington's Circular of the 21st ultimo, that the mediation of the Powers should be offered to Greece and Turkey with regard to the frontier question.

I have ventured to ask your Lordship by telegraph whether you wish me to give M. Waddington a copy of that despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 258.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 508.)
My Lord,

Paris, May 9, 1879.

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 622 of the 6th instant, containing the observations of Her Majesty's Government on M. Waddington's proposal that the mediation of the Powers should be offered to Turkey and Greece on the Frontier question.

M. Waddington expressed his satisfaction at the consent of Her Majesty's Government to tender their mediation simultaneously with that of the other Signatory Powers.

He said that his proposal had been accepted by Germany; that it had been accepted by Italy, with the observation that the mode in which the mediation of the Ambassadors at Constantinople is to be exercised must be further considered; that Austria had accepted it, though, if I understood him rightly, not quite unreservedly; finally, that the formal acceptance of Russia had not yet been received, but that it was certain it would be given.

He repeated that he considered that the decisions of the mediators must be unanimous, and for this reason, among others, that they would hardly be deferred to by Turkey and Greece if there were Powers which dissented from them.

He took note of the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government that it might be better that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should not give to their consultations the formal character of a Conference.

M. Waddington said, in conclusion, that he hoped in a few days to send a further Circular with regard to the form and conditions of the mediation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 259.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha:—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 10.)

Constantinople, le 8 Mai, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

NOTRE Commissaire pour la délimitation du Monténégro nous avait informé que dans la Commission il avait été proposé de prendre comme base complémentaire le tracé de la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien. Comme cette carte présente des erreurs essentielles, et qu'aucune stipulation ne nous oblige à la suivre aveuglement, nous lui avions donné pour instruction de s'en tenir à l'application sur le terrain du tracé tel qu'il est indiqué dans le Traité, et s'attacher à la réalité des faits plutôt qu'aux indications de la carte. Cependant, un télégramme en date du 8, 1 heure 30 minutes soir, que je viens de recevoir, porte que "la Commission a accepté à l'unanimité moins notre voix l'îlot nommé par erreur sur la carte Autrichienne Goricatopal, comme point d'attache intermédiaire de la ligne Plavnica, Goricatopal vieux Ffuci. Devant ce vote," continue notre Commissaire, "nous avons déclaré ne pas accepter le principe d'exécuter le Traité selon le tracé de la carte Autrichienne, sans constater l'identité du nom des localités désignées dans le texte du Traité, et par conséquent ne pas pouvoir continuer les travaux techniques de la délimitation du territoire entre la côte occidentale du lac et la mer, jusqu'à réception instructions formelles, Commission nous ayant accordé vingt-quatre heures."

Un autre télégramme du Gouverneur-Général de Scutari porte que les Monténégrins avait fait avancer deux bataillons sur les collines sises à la gauche de l'Ile Topchalva, comme pour appuyer par cette démonstration militaire l'erreur de la carte.

J'ai télégraphié à notre Commissaire d'attendre des instructions ultérieures. Aussi ne saurais-je vous prier trop instamment de représenter, sans perte de temps, au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité la situation qui nous est faite, par la prétention de vouloir faire prévaloir, sans aucune raison plausible, les erreurs d'une carte que rien ne nous oblige de suivre sur la vérité la plus incontestable. Je pense que dans l'esprit d'équité qui le caractérise le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères voudra bien reconnaître le bien-fondé de l'observation de notre Commissaire, et donner d'urgence à son Commissaire l'instruction de voter pour l'application, pure et simple, sur le terrain du tracé indiqué par le Traité, comme cela s'est fait pour toutes les autres délimitations en Asie et en Europe, pour lesquelles aussi il existait des tracés sur des cartes qu'on a été bien des fois dans le cas de rectifier. La question présente pour nous un grand intérêt pratique. Vous voudrez bien me faire parvenir au plus tôt la réponse du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 260.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

Pera, May 10, 1879.

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that Russian Ambassador has stated to the Porte that General Stolipine will come here in two days' time to confer with Aleko Pasha, who will then be able to proceed at once to Philippopolis with the Commission, the Emperor of Russia's Proclamation having produced so good an impression on the Bulgarians that the Pasha may at once take the administration of the province into his hands.

I suspect that Aleko Pasha is acting entirely in accordance with Russia.

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879, 1·50 P.M.

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.)

I QUITE approve of your going to Philippopolis. I think it would be better that Porte should first instruct Aleko as to matter and manner of his consultations with the Commissioners, and then on those instructions we can try to obtain, if necessary, identic instructions from the Powers.

No. 262.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879, 2·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has stated to me that the Russian Government have fully agreed that the Eastern Roumelian Commission, in deciding upon the question whether Turkish troops should be summoned for the purpose of suppressing disorder, should decide by a majority.

(To Sir A. H. Layard only :—)
Please inform Sir H. Wolff.

No. 263.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879, 2·20 P.M.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.)

I THINK it would be more convenient if Porte agrees that it should instruct Aleko, in case of disturbance, to take the opinion of the majority of the Commission before summoning Turkish troops; and to seek and follow their advice upon important measures of policy. A strict definition of these might be inconvenient. Let me know what you think and Porte thinks on the matter.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 411, I am informed, on behalf of English bondholders of 1852 and 1862, that they object to mode of dealing with their securities proposed by Ottoman Bank. The only answer I have yet been able to get from the French Government points to a similar objection on their part on behalf of other loans.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.)

I WOULD gladly comply with Sultan's wish expressed in your telegram No. 410, but I have no means of communicating with Prince Battenberg, and do not know where he is.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.)

URGE Minister for Foreign Affairs to resist attempt mentioned in your telegram No. 405, and to press Aleko to resist it.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

(No. 658.)
Sir,

HER Majesty's Government are of opinion that the most convenient course for the Porte to pursue, unless it should see any objection thereto, will be for it to instruct

Aleko Pasha to take the opinion of the majority of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia before summoning Turkish troops to that province in the event of disturbances arising there on its evacuation by the Russian troops. It would also, they consider, be desirable that the new Governor-General should be instructed to seek and follow the advice of the Commission upon important measures of policy, a strict definition of which might, however, for the present be convenient. I have therefore requested your Excellency, in my telegram No. 59 of this day, to acquaint me with your own views, and with those of the Porte, on the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 663.)
Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 410 of the 8th instant, relative to the desire of the Sultan that Prince Battenberg should visit His Majesty at Constantinople before he proceeds to Bulgaria to assume the dignity of Prince of that country.

I have informed you that I would gladly do what lies in my power to further the Sultan's wishes, but that I have no means of communicating with the Prince, and do not know where he is at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 269.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 665. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 405 of the 8th instant, mentioning that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has derived an impression from Prince Labanoff's language that the Russian authorities intend to replace their military officials in Eastern Roumelia by Bulgarians known to be Panslavist agents, and completely in the interest of Russia.

You should urge the Porte to resist any attempt of this kind, and to give strong instructions to Aleko Pasha in the same sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 270.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 230.)
Foreign Office, May 10, 1879.

Sir,

YOU will have learnt, from my telegram No. 22 of this day's date, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the suggestion contained in your telegram No. 173 of the 8th instant, that you should start immediately for Philippopolis. With regard to your wish that identic instructions should be sent to the Commissioners of all the Powers who are represented on the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, it is, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, desirable that, in the first instance, the Porte should instruct Aleko Pasha as to the matters on which he should seek the advice of the Commissioners, and as to the manner in which he should do so. Her Majesty's Government will then endeavour to obtain the consent of the Powers to address identic instructions to their Delegates, founded on those given by the Porte to the new Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 271.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 11, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, who was before anxious for my departure, asks me to defer it for some days, as Russian Ambassador has telegraphed General Stolipine to come here himself.

The Turkish Ministers appear to have changed their minds as to the expediency of the Commission remaining at Philippopolis. The Bulgarians are taking things so quietly that the Turks think after the installation of Aleko by the Commission he had better be left to himself. The Commissioners here are unanimously of the same opinion, thinking the prolonged stay of the Commission at Philippopolis likely to be not only useless but probably mischievous.

No. 272.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, May 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 9th instant, Government has concluded the contract with the Russian Steam Navigation Company for three months for transport of army of occupation, and the first troops are to arrive here on the 30th instant.

Prince of Bulgaria went to the Crimea to-day.

No. 273.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 414.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 11, 1879.*

COLONEL WILSON'S exequatur will, I hope, be ready in the course of this week.

No. 274.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 11, 1879, 10·30 P.M.*

IN conformity with the views of the Austrian Government, which we entirely share, we have strongly urged upon the Russian Government that the evacuation ought to be complete by the 3rd July, two months giving, in our view, abundant time for that operation.

No. 275

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 280.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 11, 1879.*

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that, in conformity with the views expressed by the Austrian Government, and which are entirely shared by that of Her Majesty, the British Government have strongly urged upon that of Russia that the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by Russian troops ought to be completed by the 3rd July next, as, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, a period of two months from the commencement of such evacuation ought to give abundant time for the completion of that operation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 276.

Mr. E. T. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1879.

My Lord,

THE two branches of the inquiry intrusted to me, which I am still engaged in carrying on through the medium of the Financial Commission, are those relating to the local and irregular debt of the Turkish Government and the joint proposals which the English and French members of the Commission propose to make for the improvement of financial control and better organization of the revenue administration.

These proposals will probably be completed in the course of next week, and I hope soon afterwards to have obtained the information for which I have earnestly pressed, and which is still wanting to give a fair view of the unpaid cash assignments on the provincial treasuries, an important and extremely unsatisfactory branch of the obligations of the Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

No. 277.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 73.) *Cettigné, April 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

COLONEL THOEMMEL, the Austrian Minister, informs me that when, a short time ago, Lieutenant-Colonel Angeleovich, Aide-de-camp to Prince Milan of Servia, brought the Order of Takova for Prince Nicholas and his cousin M. Bojidar Petrovich, he was warned that the real objects of the Aide-de-camp's mission were to endeavour to induce the Montenegrins to assist an expected insurrectionary rising in the Herzegovina, and to obtain an engagement from Prince Nicholas not to oppose the views of Servia with reference to the election of a Prince for Bulgaria.

Colonel Thoemmel says that he consequently watched very closely the proceedings of Colonel Angeleovich, and he is convinced that, if he did come on the mission attributed to him, he received no encouragement from the Montenegrin Government, but that, on the contrary, his reception was hardly civil, as Prince Nicholas was disposed to resent the delay which had been shown in acknowledging the Montenegrin decoration which had been sent to Prince Milan when hostilities first broke out between the Principalities and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 278.

Captain Sale, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 4.) *Cettigné, May 2, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at this place on the 29th ultimo, in company with the French Commissioner, finding that the other Commissioners had already arrived.

The Commission has sat twice to settle preliminaries, and proposes to leave this on the 4th instant, so as to arrive at Scutari the same day, commencing work at once on the Montenegrin boundary, and working from the Scutari lake to the sea.

The principal business transacted has been the election of the President (M. Colonna Ceccaldi); the decision to settle all questions by a majority of votes; and a decision as to the degree of value to be attached to the Austrian Staff Map in deciding disputed points.

Printed copies of the Protocols will be forwarded as soon as possible. It is requested that letters may be addressed to care of the Consul-General, Scutari.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 279.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 162.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, May 3, 1879.

YESTERDAY I called upon Prince Gortchacow at his Highness' request. He communicated to me a telegram from M. de Giers, at Livadia, stating that he (M. de Giers) had just received the news that the Balkan Delimitation Commission had unanimously agreed to a formula embodying the "majority principle" in terms which satisfied the Emperor.

Prince Gortchacow seemed very much pleased, and more than once alluded to the conciliatory spirit shown by your Lordship, especially in the instructions which had been recently given to Major Clarke. He also praised the conduct of Mr. Malet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 280.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 164. Confidential.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, May 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a short confidential Memorandum I have addressed to Baron Jomini, resuming the course and the various phases of the negotiations which have been recently conducted between myself and the Russian Government.

It was all the more necessary that some such record of what had taken place should be before us as confusion and misunderstandings are very apt to arise when complicated arrangements have to be discussed between so many different representatives of the Power with whom Her Majesty's Ambassador is treating, circumstances having required me to negotiate in succession with Prince Gortchacow, Count Schouvaloff, M. de Giers, and Baron de Jomini, each of them acting and speaking as the principal medium of communication between the Emperor and myself for the time being.

Baron de Jomini has written me a line thanking me for the Memorandum in question, and saying that it clears up the situation.

In my interview with his Highness yesterday Prince Gortchacow sanctioned it as correct, and told me he would send it to the Emperor.

I am in hopes that the outlines of the propositions I have from time to time made to Prince Gortchacow on behalf of the British Government, as consigned to this document, will be found to harmonize with the summary of your Lordship's various instructions contained in your telegram No. 23 of the 28th April.

I have the honour also to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a short Memorandum which Prince Gortchacow has communicated to me of the conversation I had with his Highness on the 9th April, as already reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. of the

This Memorandum merely contains some brief notes which Prince Gortchacow made for his own convenience, in order to refresh his memory when reporting what had taken place to the Emperor, and does not profess to state all that passed between us.

Your Lordship will remember that the occasion referred to is the one on which I intimated to his Highness that Her Majesty's Government would be willing to give a qualified assent to some of the modifications he had suggested of the original plan submitted to the consideration of the Russian Government after the "mixed occupation" scheme had fallen through, on condition that the "majority" principle was accepted in the Balkan Delimitation Commission.

It will be observed that Prince Gortchacow does not record any intimation upon my part that your Lordship will try to restrain the Turkish troops from occupying Ichtiman when once the Russian troops shall have evacuated the province.

I purposely kept the date for the occupation of Ichtiman distinct from the question of the entry of the Turkish garrisons into the Balkans. This latter event was to follow upon the conclusion of the delimitation of the frontier, provided that work

was completed during the current year; but I gave no pledge that the occupation of Ichtiman might not take place at an earlier period, though not until after the Russian troops were away.

When your Lordship informed me that an agreement might possibly be come to for the conclusion of the delimitation by the 2nd July, and that the Porte was to have the right immediately after of posting its troops along the frontier, I was afraid that the Russian Government might object that such a proceeding would imply the advance of the Porte's troops before the Russian evacuation was complete, which might have conflicted with the pledge I had been already authorized to give, on certain conditions, in that respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 280.

The Earl of Dufferin to Baron Jomini.

(Private.)
My dear Baron, *British Embassy, April* $\frac{17}{18}$, 1879.

AS our recent negotiations have been protracted over a considerable number of weeks, in order to prevent confusion it may be as well that their course should be noted in a short Memorandum.

When the scheme for the mixed occupation fell through, Lord Salisbury instructed me to ascertain from Prince Gortchacow whether the following arrangement might not be substituted, viz.:—

1. The election of Aleko Pasha.
2. The prolongation of the Commission for a year.
3. The Turkish troops only to enter the province with the sanction of a majority of the Commission.
4. The immediate occupation of Ichtiman and Bourgas.
5. The non-occupation of the Balkans for a year.

This scheme Prince Gortchacow accepted with certain modifications, viz.:—

1. The non-occupation of Ichtiman.
2. The non-occupation of Bourgas until the departure of the Russian army from the province.
3. The non-entry of the Turkish troops into the province, under any circumstances, until after the Russian evacuation.
4. The non-occupation of the Balkans until after conclusion of the delimitation.

Having communicated Prince Gortchacow's views to Lord Salisbury, I was instructed by his Lordship to state—

That though he could not advise the Porte to strip itself formally of any of its rights, and though the non-entry of Turkish troops into the province must necessarily be dependent on the conduct of the Roumeliots, yet that, in order to meet the views of the Emperor, Her Majesty's Government would press the Porte—

1. To postpone the occupation of Ichtiman.
2. Not to occupy Bourgas until after the departure of Russian troops from the province; and
3. Not to occupy the Balkans until after the delimitation of the frontier, provided this delimitation was completed within the present year, if the Russian Government on its part would consent that the "majority" principle should regulate the decisions of the Balkan Commission.

Prince Gortchacow answered this latter proposition by his Circular on the subject, in reply to which I was instructed by Lord Salisbury to accept the "watershed" principle therein suggested, provided the "majority" should determine the deviations to the north which might be required to secure to Turkey the defensible frontier guaranteed to her by the Treaty, as explained in the "formula" I have communicated.

M. de Giers said he was ready to accept the formula, if the question as to whether these deviations were of a defensive or an aggressive character might be relegated to the Cabinets.

Lord Salisbury has now objected that such a reserve quite nullifies the majority principle, that the watershed principle falls with it, and the majority principle being practically rejected we must fall back on the Treaty.

From the foregoing you will see that our qualified acceptance of the major part

of Prince Gortchacow's modifications of the original plan was contingent on the acceptance by the Russian Government of the majority principle in Balkan Commission. I do not mean to imply by this that we shall not be very anxious to meet the views of the Russian Government on the matters referred to, but the doing so remains within our discretion, and is no longer an absolute obligation.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 280.

Report of Prince Gortchacow to the Emperor of conversation with Lord Dufferin, March 28, 9 P.M.

IL m'a dit que le Gouvernement Anglais pésera sur la Porte pour qu'elle ne fasse entrer ses troupes, ni à Bourgas ni nilleurs, que lorsque toute notre armée ne soit sortie, bien entendu qu'en cas d'une insurrection, la Porte usera des droits qui lui sont assurés par le Traité de Berlin.

En retour de l'action modératrice que le Gouvernement Anglais exercera sur la Porte, et pour hâter l'œuvre de la délimitation dans les Balkans, il espère que le Gouvernement Russe accédera à son avis, que dans le cas spécial, la majorité des voix dans la Commission décidera.

Il m'a dit encore que Lord Salisbury applaudit à l'idée du Général Todleben que des officiers Russes restent pour quelque temps dans le commandement des milices Roumélioles et ne soient retirés que peu à peu.

No. 281.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 169.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 6, 1879.

YESTERDAY I waited on Baron de Jomini for the purpose of drawing his attention to the various reports lately received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff and Mr. Michell relative to the proceedings of the Russian authorities in East Roumelia, and especially to the toast given by General Stolipine at a recent dinner at Philippopolis.

I also reverted to the question of the artillery, and again insisted upon the unsatisfactory reflections to which such incidents must give rise.

Baron de Jomini informed me that he knew nothing about what had taken place at the dinner, and that he did not believe General Stolipine could have held language so contrary to the policy and wishes of the Emperor.

He also asserted that the Emperor had ordered that, instead of two batteries, only half a battery should be presented to the Roumeliots.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 282.

Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Darmstadt, May* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that Prince Alexander Battenberg left Darmstadt to-day for Livadia.

I met the Prince yesterday, when he informed me of his intended visit to the Emperor of Russia, but added that he hoped shortly to return here, and that his wish was to visit the Courts of the Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin before proceeding to Bulgaria.

I understand that he has telegraphed to Tirnova to request the Bulgarian deputation to defer their departure until he can fix the date and place for receiving them, and for signifying his formal acceptance of the Principality.

I am further informed that the Prince has expressed himself as seriously impressed with the responsibilities and difficulties of the task he has been asked to undertake, and as most anxious to merit the confidence, not only of his future subjects, but also of all the Powers with whose consent he will assume the government of Bulgaria.

Before leaving, Prince Battenberg had an audience of the Grand Duke, who conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Order of Louis. He also received a deputation charged to offer to him the congratulations of the Municipality and inhabitants of Darmstadt on his election.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 283.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 511.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 10, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 508 of yesterday I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I had communicated to M. Waddington, verbally, the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 622 of the 6th instant, on the subject of his proposal to bring into operation the mediation of the Powers on the Greek frontier question.

I have now the honour, with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 54 of yesterday, to report that I have to day furnished M. Waddington with a copy of that despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 284.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 241. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, May 9, 1879.*

I LEARN, from your Lordship's despatch No. 244 of the 1st instant, that Prince Bismarck is extremely dissatisfied with the Russian Government for throwing upon him the blame of all concessions which Russia was compelled to make at Berlin, while, in truth, his action had rather been to sustain Russia during the deliberations of the Congress.

Unjustifiable as Russia's ingratitude towards him certainly is, it must be admitted that Prince Bismarck returns good for evil.

Apart from his commercial policy, which may partly close the German market to Russian produce, the German Chancellor's Oriental policy has been uniformly favourable to the wishes of his Russian friends.

He is supporting them in the unsettled delimitation difficulties; he will vote with them in the Silistria Bridge and the Arab-Tabia questions; he shares their hatred of the Roumanians, and their love of the Slavs; and he has been careful, since the Congress, never to commit himself to any particular course of action until he knows their wishes, and can give them his moral support. Besides which, he has, to my certain knowledge, secretly instructed Count Hatzfeldt to use his best efforts at Constantinople in bringing about a better understanding between them and the Porte, and to support his Russian colleague steadily though secretly. Similar instructions were sent, it appears, to Prince Reuss during Count Schouvaloff's presence at Vienna, and Prince Reuss has since reported that his efforts have happily led to improved relations between Austria and Russia.

Under such circumstances, Prince Bismarck has every right to complain of Russian ingratitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 285.

Mr. Welsh to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, May 7, 1879.*

THE Department of State is informed, through Mr. Heap, the Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* of the United States at Constantinople, that on the 12th December last an American Mission House at Midyad, a town near Mardin, in the vilayet or government of Diarbekir, under charge of Rev. Mr. Andrews, was attacked by a mob of Jacobites. Midyad is understood to be a town containing about 500 houses belonging to Jacobite Syrians, and twenty Protestant houses. Some Americans have built a school-house there, and a residence for a missionary and a lady teacher. Mr. Andrews took up his residence in the place in November, and, on the 12th December, left for the purpose of visiting Diarbekir, confiding the charge of the house to the lady teacher. He had hardly departed when the premises were assaulted by some fifty Jacobites, under the lead of two influential Beys of the locality. As they were unable to effect an entrance into the building, they subjected it to a storm of stones, made many threats and much noise, and then withdrew. They damaged the house considerably, broke several windows, and one of the number gave the lady teacher a severe blow on the back of her head with a stone.

Soon, thereafter, Major Henry Trotter, British Consul in Kurdistan, arrived at Diarbekir, and Mr. Andrews called upon him, and besought his advice and assistance, which was cheerfully given. The case was brought before the Court at Mardin, and the ringleaders arrested and imprisoned.

Major Trotter had several earnest interviews with the Pasha of the district upon the subject, and was assured that the missionary should have full protection. The Court, however, in passing upon the case, corruptly decided that both parties were to blame, and dismissed the prisoners, but required them to give bond for their future good behaviour. To such a course Major Trotter made an energetic protest, but the result is not stated.

The Department is also informed that Major Trotter has deeply interested himself on other occasions in behalf of American Missions. These services are deeply appreciated by my Government, and I have been instructed to make a statement of facts in the case to Her Majesty's Government, and request that the thanks of the President may be communicated to Major Trotter for his active efforts in aid of American missionaries, and the noble work in which they are engaged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WELSH.

No. 286.

Document communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by the Albanian Delegates, May 12.

LA nation Hellénique, depuis le jour de la déclaration de son indépendance, a consacré tous ses efforts à préparer les moyens de s'emparer de l'Épire et d'Helléniser le peuple Albanais.

Le Gouvernement Grec n'a pas cessé un instant d'employer dans ce but tous les moyens en son pouvoir. Il a notamment, jusqu'à une certaine époque, protegé les bandits, les entretenant à ses frais, pour exciter les habitants Chrétiens de la Thessalie à s'insurger contre le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman.

On sait de quelle manière le Général Grivas a franchi, en 1854, les frontières Helléniques, accompagné d'une bande nombreuse, recrutée en Grèce; et ces partisans ne reculaient devant aucun crime pour obliger les habitants Chrétiens à se joindre à eux.

Cependant ces tentatives criminelles ne produisirent aucun effet; elles ne purent ébranler la fidélité des habitants envers leur Souverain légitime.

On les renouvela en 1866, sans plus de succès. Le Gouvernement Hellénique avait fait organiser, dans différents districts de l'Epire et de la Thessalie, des Comités Révolutionnaires qui distribuaient aux habitants des armes et des munitions en grande quantité. En outre, les bandes Helléniques étaient, cette fois, commandées par des officiers de l'armée Grecque et appuyées par des troupes régulières Grecques. Néanmoins il se produisit, en 1878, à l'affaire de Liqorizes, ce fait remarquable que les

Chrétiens de l'Épire furent les premiers à repousser les agresseurs les armes à la main.

Le Gouvernement Hellénique, voyant cette fois encore son impuissance à ébranler la fidélité et le dévouement des habitants, adopta dès lors une autre tactique, dont nous constatons aujourdhui les effets. C'est par les voies diplomatiques qu'il cherche à atteindre son but, et M. Delyanni n'a pas craint de revendiquer, dans le mémoire présenté au Congrès de Berlin, toute l'Épire, la Thessalie, la Macédoine, la Thrace et même Constantinople, soutenant que tous ces pays appartiennent à la Grèce.

Le Congrès, tout en ne prenant pas en considération les prétentions de la Grèce, a néanmoins recommandé la cession à ce Royaume, des districts de Preveza, Narda, Margarita, Paramitia, Parga et Janina, jusqu'à la rivière de Calama, sans se soucier des droits du peuple Albanais.

Heureusement cette opinion, formulée à Berlin, n'a pas revêtu un caractère décisif.

Mais les droits des Albanais n'ont pas moins été gravement méconnus et, malgré les nombreuses protestations télégraphiées au Congrès, on a détaché plusieurs districts de l'Albanie pour les incorporer à la Serbie et au Monténégro.

Si l'on jette un coup d'œil sur l'histoire ancienne et moderne ainsi que sur les traités de géographie, on comprendra facilement quelles injustices ont été commises à l'égard de l'Albanie.

Il est notoire que le peuple Albanais est plus ancien que le peuple Grec; on sait que l'Epire était anciennement une des parties intégrantes de l'Albanie et que, jamais cette contrée n'a été, à un degré quelconque, occupée par des Grecs. Le témoignage des plus célèbres historiens de l'antiquité, Hérodote, Thucydides, Strabon, confirme pleinement cette vérité historique, et les livres des plus grands géographes modernes viennent corroborer, à cet égard le témoignage des auteurs anciens.

L'une des prétentions absurdes soutenus par les Hellènes c'est que les habitants de Janina et de Narda, faisant usage de la langue Grecque, on devrait les considérer comme appartenant à la nationalité Grecque. Or, la population de l'Epire compte environ 650,000 âmes et la fraction signalée comme parlant le Grec atteint à peine le chiffre relativement insignifiant de 74,000 habitants; et encore cette particularité s'explique, non par leur origine Hellénique, mais par l'absence jusqu'à une certaine époque d'un alphabet Albanais et, surtout, par l'effet inévitable du voisinage et des relations journalières de commerce.

Tout le monde sait, en effet, que, quelle que soit la langue qu'ils parlent, les habitants de ces localités sont d'origine Albanaise, et, au surplus, si le principe de la conformité de la langue devait être pris pour règle, il faudrait changer la carte, non-seulement de l'Europe et de l'Asie, mais de toutes les parties du globe; de telle sorte que les plus grandes Puissances en seraient considérablement amoindries, et, même, que quelques-unes courraient le risque d'une suppression totale; il faudrait, surtout, commencer par détacher de la Grèce plus de 200,000 habitants de la langue Albanaise; il faudrait en détacher 170,000 de l'Italie, 150,000 de la Serbie, du Monténégro, de la Bulgarie, et de la Dalmatie. On voit où la logique d'un tel principe conduirait.

Bien que les districts adjugés à la Serbie et au Monténégro, comme Sputza, Podgoritza, Vrania, soient Albanais, nous avons crû devoir ne pas nous élever contre cette cession, parce que c'eût été contraire au respect dû à une décision formelle du Congrès. D'ailleurs, la perte de ces territoires n'avait pas, pour nous, la même importance, ni la même gravité, qu'aurait le triomphe des prétentions Grecques, qui tendent à détruire la nation Albanaise en l'absorbant complétement.

Toutefois on n'a pu oublier que la remise des localités précitées aux Serbes et aux Monténégrins a soulevé des difficultés de plus d'un genre, et les inquiétudes qui persistent à régner encore dans ces territoires, démontrent, jusqu'à l'évidence, l'absence totale d'harmonie et d'intelligence entre les deux éléments de populations disparates.

La région de l'Epire ne peut être comparée aux parties de l'Albanie cédées aux deux Principautés. Son importance augmente en raison de ce que les ports les plus considérables de l'Albanie, tels que Prevoza, Narda, Gomenitza, Parga, se trouvent dans cette région; il n'existe en Albanie d'autres abris sûrs où un navire puisse jeter l'ancre. D'autre part, les seules fortifications naturelles que possède l'Albanie sont celles de Preveza, Janina, et Narda: la contrée n'a point d'autres positions stratégiques.

Laissez prendre à la Grèce les localités qu'elle réclame dans cette contrée, ce serait faillir au devoir, qu'a chaque peuple, de défendre sa patrie et sa nationalité, car ce serait donner, dès à présent, les clefs de l'Albanie à un peuple étranger, dont les efforts

ne tendent qu'à la dominer et à la posséder tout entière; ce serait consentir à ce que toutes nos positions stratégiques et tous nos ouvrages militaires fussent remis entre les mains d'une nation ennemie; ce serait enfin une faiblesse qu'un peuple, animé de sentiments patriotiques, ne peut se laisser aller à commettre.

Il est connu de tous que les autres parties de l'Albanie sont montagneuses, arides, et que les habitants de ces contrées vivent uniquement de leurs moutons, qu'ils gardent pendant l'été dans leurs montagnes, et qu'ils mènent en hiver à Narda, Preveza, Parga, Margarita, Paramitia, et Janina. Si ces localités passent à la Grèce les Albanais, n'ayant d'autres pâturages d'hiver, seront réduits à vendre leurs bestiaux. A-t-on réfléchi aux conséquences d'une telle extrémité? Ce serait tout simplement condamner un million d'hommes à n'avoir plus aucun moyen d'existence, car ces mêmes localités sont les seules parties de la contrée qui produisent les céréales dont les habitants des montagnes tirent leur subsistance.

Voilà la vraie raison de la persistance que les Grecs mettent à s'emparer de ces localités. Aucune des particularités que nous venons d'exposer ne leur sont inconnues, et ils savent parfaitement que, du jour où ils auront mis la main sur les points plus particulièrement convoités aujourd'hui par eux, il leur deviendra facile d'absorber tout le reste de l'Albanie.

Les Albanais avaient conservé leur patrie, leur nationalité, leur langue et leurs mœurs en repoussant les agressions des Romains, des Bizantins et des Vénitiens, dans les temps de la barbarie. Comment peut-on permettre, dans un siècle de lumières et de civilisation qu'une nation, aussi vaillante et aussi attachée à son sol soit sacrifiée, livrée à un voisin avide, sans aucune raison légitime?

Le peuple Albanais compte 2,300,000 âmes. En présence des convoitises acharnées de leurs voisins, en présence des dangers qui les menacent, ces populations patriotiques se sont toutes liées entre elles, par des serments solennels, à consacrer tous leurs efforts pour conserver, sous l'autorité protectrice du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, leur patrie, leur nationalité, et leur langue, considérant d'ailleurs comme l'un des moyens propres à atteindre ce but l'introduction dans leur pays des réformes jugées nécessaires et notamment, celle de l'instruction publique. A ces fins tous les Albanais, sans exception, ont juré de se faire tuer, jusqu'au dernier, plutôt que de céder aux Grecs les territoires de Preveza, Narda, Janina et autres districts de l'Albanie, que ceux-ci convoitent. S'il faut qu'ils soient absorbés par les Grecs, les habitants de l'Albanie aiment mieux mourir les armes à la main!

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine est un Gouvernement juste et éclairé. Il voudra bien, nous en sommes convaincus, prendre en sérieuse considération nos humbles observations. Il appréciera nos motifs parfaitement fondés et conformes aux principes de l'équité et de la justice. Il ne permettra pas que la voie du progrès, que nous sommes décidés à suivre, se ferme encore devant nous et que nous en soyons détournés parce qu'on nous aura contraints à nous jeter dans la voie de l'effusion du sang et des luttes destructrices.

Tel est l'espoir que nous fondons dans les sentiments de justice et de générosité qui caractérisent au plus haut point la nation Anglaise.

Londres, le Mai, 1879.

Les Délégués du Peuple Albanais,
(Signé) MEHMED ALI VRION.
ABDUL PHRACHARI.

No. 287.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 12, 1879, 2·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, M. Depretis entirely shares the opinion that evacuation ought to be completed by 3rd July, and, in reply to my inquiry, stated that he would so express himself at St. Petersburg.

No. 288.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May 12, 1879.*

THE answer of the French Government about the Ottoman Bank Loan scheme is that they cannot support it as it stands, because it gives undue preference to certain loans, but that they are willing to appoint Commissioners if all the loans anterior to the war are placed on an equal footing.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks there should be one Italian Commissioner also.

As an arrangement for including all the loans, he refers to declaration of Count Corti in the 18th Protocol of the Congress.

No. 289.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 415.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 12, 1879.*

I HAVE received following from Consul-General Green, dated yesterday:—

"I telegraphed following at Captain Sale's request:—

"'Work of Montenegrin Boundary Commission stopped, Turkish Commissioner having declined to act pending further instructions from his Government.'"

No. 290.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 12, 1879.*

HAVE you received any answer from St. Petersburgh respecting General Stolipine's proceedings towards Colonel Vitalis? The latter has arrived here in great anxiety, being afraid that he is to be superseded in favour of Colonel Kisiakoff.

No. 291.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 12, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Commissioner informs me that Stolipine, who arrives to-night, breakfasts to-morrow with the Russian Ambassador to meet Aleko. The latter will go off in a day or two. Stolipine will at once hand over the civil administration and the command of the militia.

He will ask Commission to go to Philippopolis with or without instructions.

From what I learn Aleko is inclined to pay court to the Russians, and will probably not attend much to the Commission even if ordered to do so by the Porte.

All the accounts from Eastern Roumelia agree in representing the population as willing to accept Statute peaceably.

No. 292.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1879.*

RUSSIANS have recently been pressing for the establishment of Commissions to set up reformed institutions in the other parts of European Turkey, under the XVth Article. Porte should take action about this without delay.

No. 293.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 412, I approve your supporting arrangement proposed by the Porte for the introduction of new system in Eastern Roumelia.

No. 294.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1879.*

FOLLOWING for Major Clarke:—

In the present disposition of Turkish policy towards Russia, and in view of corruption of many Turkish officers, I think it would be dangerous to establish the system of majority vote in your Asiatic Commission, which only represents three Powers.

No. 295.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 667.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 12, 1879.*

RUMOURS have reached Her Majesty's Government that the Russians have recently been pressing for the establishment of the Special Commissions provided for under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin for the preparation of the laws to be introduced into the European provinces of Turkey other than Eastern Roumelia. In their opinion, the Porte should take the necessary steps to carry out the intentions of the Treaty in this respect without any delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 296.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 669.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 12, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 412 of the 9th instant, stating that the Russian Ambassador was endeavouring to prevent for the present the entry of Aleko Pasha upon his functions as Governor of Eastern Roumelia, but that the Council of Ministers, wishing to keep in the hands of the Russian authorities the appointment of the officials who will be charged with the introduction of the new institutions, had decided that the utmost concession that could be made in this direction was that a Secretary-General, whose appointment is provided for in the new Constitution, should proceed at once to Philippopolis, accompanied by the members of the European Commission, and should make, in concert with General Stolipine, the necessary arrangements preparatory to the arrival of the Governor, appointing provisionally the public functionaries who are to replace the Russian officials.

I have authorized your Excellency by telegraph to support this proposal, which, as I understand from you, has also received the approval of the Austrian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 297.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 671.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1879.

I HAVE had under consideration a suggestion made by Major Clarke, in his telegram of the 8th instant, that powers should be given to the Commission of which he is a member to decide by a majority of votes, so as to avoid the necessity for reference being made from distant parts of Asia Minor on questions which would involve only insignificant changes being made in the trace of the map to be prepared at Constantinople of the projected frontier in Asia between Russia and Turkey.

In reply, I have requested your Excellency by telegraph this day to inform Major Clarke that I do not think it would be advisable to establish the system of majorities on the Asiatic Commission, where only three Powers are represented.

It must be borne in mind that at the present moment there are indications that the Turks are not altogether disinclined to throw themselves into the arms of Russia; nor would it be prudent to lose sight of the fact that many of the Turkish officers are not proof against corruption.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 298.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 675.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1879.

TWO gentlemen, Mehemed Ali Vrion and Abdu Bey Phrachari, who stated that they had been Deputies in the Turkish Parliament from the Province of Janina, and who desired to represent the wishes of the South Albanian population, as far as known to them, to the Powers, called on me to-day.

They stated that, though there were a large number of Christians in Albania, north and south, and, though in many places the Greek as well as the Albanian language was used, there was nowhere any desire for union with the Greek Monarchy, or any wish to be withdrawn from the dominion of the Sultan.

The only exception to this assertion was in the case of a small population, not exceeding 20,000 souls, lying in the immediate proximity of the Greek frontier, and their desire to be united to the Greek Monarchy was merely due to their hope that such an union might protect them in future from the incessant incursions of brigands from the Greek border to which they had been exposed in recent years. Of the 600,000 people who form the population of Albania, about 60,000 spoke Greek as well as Albanian, but these consisted chiefly of men, the women speaking almost exclusively Albanian.

They dwelt at length on the necessity of preserving for Albania the southern portion of Epirus. It was a fertile portion of the territory, without which the mountaineers would starve. It contained the only ports upon the coast, and without these the commerce would be arrested. They insisted upon the determination of the Albanians not to submit to the domination of the Greeks, and asserted that this resolution was felt as strongly in the south of Albania as in the north of it. They desired to lay their wishes and their claims with all humility before the European Powers in the hope that justice would be done to them; but they did not conceal their resolutions to persevere in the resistance to alien domination which for very many centuries their forefathers had maintained. Whatever the results of the pending discussion might be, the King of Greece would only become master of any portion of Albania if he was able to subdue it by force of arms.

I contented myself with eliciting from these gentlemen, by questions, the information of which they were in possession, and did not express any opinion upon their claims. I recommended them, however, to make at Constantinople any representations which they thought it useful to bring to the knowledge of the Powers, whenever the mediation should commence, assuring them that it was the wish of the Powers to do impartial justice to all the races which inhabit the Balkan Peninsula.

They left with me a Memorial, of which I inclose a copy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 299.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 290.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 164, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, which incloses a copy of a private Memorandum with which you had furnished Baron Jomini, giving a summary of the recent communications which have passed between the Russian Government and yourself upon questions connected with the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

It affords me very great satisfaction to assure your Excellency that the manner in which you have conducted these difficult negotiations meets with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 300.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 291.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 155 of the 30th ultimo, containing the record of your discussions with the Russian Government on the proposal that disputed questions which may arise in the demarcation of the Balkan frontier of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia should be settled by a vote of the majority of the Commission.

Your Excellency's proceedings in regard to this matter have the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 301.

Major-General Hunley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to offer you the following information respecting the map of parts of Roumelia and Bulgaria executed by the Russian topographers and laid before the Commission by Colonel Bogolubow.

The first part done was the Shipka Pass and its neighbourhood; the scale was about 3 inches to a mile, and it was executed with considerable elaboration. It being found impracticable to continue the work on this scale, the remainder is on a scale of about 1½ inch to the mile, and executed with much less attention to finish. It was not done for the Commission, but for the Russian Government, and includes not merely the Balkans but large spaces on each side of them, and will, perhaps, when complete, be a survey of the whole country between the Turkish frontier and the Danube. Those parts only which include the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia have been laid before the Commission; and they at present extend (with a few small gaps, now in course of being filled in) from a little east of Kotel, on the east, to a point about 10 miles north of Samakow on the west. It is the extension of this western portion to Cadir Tepe that my surveying party is now engaged in getting ready for the Commission.

Meanwhile the Russian topographers are proceeding with their work. Colonel Bogolubow informs me that he expects the remainder of the frontier on the east to be completed to the Black Sea before the middle of June; the western portion, up to the Servian frontier, will probably require some weeks longer.

I have caused my officers to compare the representation of the ground in which the frontier-line is drawn on the Austrian Staff Map used at the Congress with the same ground as represented on the Russian map, and they find no material difference.

The Austrian map is on a much smaller scale (about 5 miles to 1 inch), and the comparison is therefore imperfect, but it is satisfactory to find that the two fairly agree.

Colonel Bogolubow does not seem to possess exact information as to the method used in representing the ground; but it seems to have consisted in fixing points with instruments and filling in the slopes with "eye contours," *i.e.*, contours which should represent successive horizontal sections, but which, being made by the eye, without instruments, are liable to considerable errors, and it is to be expected that, while the relations of the various points to each other on the horizontal plane are sufficiently accurate, much correction of the slopes may be needed in those parts which are of tactical importance.

From the original map thus made photographed copies have been taken at St. Petersburgh, and one of these has been given to each Commissioner. The photographs are very well done.

I presume that the photographed copy will form the basis on which the Commissioners will proceed with their delimitaton. On all points where it may appear necessary to the Commission, my surveying party will be ready to correct the map, and also to make a representation on a larger scale of such points as may be deemed of special importance.

The description of this or any other work on which it may be found expedient to employ them, I propose to give after actual experience of the manner which the Commission may conduct its operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 302.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 6, 1879.*

THE Bulgarian Boundary Commission being now agreed on the main questions of the delimitation, I have the honour to offer the following review of the circumstances under which the agreement took place, in order to sum up and complete the narrative of proceedings given in my previous despatches:—

Before the first meeting of the Commission I had a second interview with Carathéodory Pasha, with the expectation of obtaining the views of the Turkish military authorities on the mode of defending Roumelia, when he said he much wished me to see the Grand Vizier and the Seraskier a second time, and would procure for me interviews with them. I have, however, heard nothing whatever of the matter from that moment, and am inclined to suppose that no definite plans had then been formed by them on the subject.

In the absence of this information, what appeared to me a proper course was to endeavour to secure for the Sultan a frontier which His Majesty could defend according to any plan which may finally seem expedient. This, I conceived, would be fully attained by due extension of the frontier at any points important for defence, where extension might be judged necessary, and where the line was not absolutely fixed by the Treaty of Berlin. I found that it was likely this view would be taken by the majority of the Commission, and though less compendious than that of Tahir Pasha, it seems to me equally efficacious, more practicable, and more in consonance with the Treaty, and possesses the great advantage of having the concurrence of the majority, which it would have been impossible to obtain for his.

When this was put into the form inclosed in my despatch No. 12, it obtained general assent, and the Russian Commissioner expressed his willingness to agree to it, but with the proviso that the rayon of defence should in all cases be limited to musketry range; and he also spoke (though this idea never took distinct form) of expecting compensation for extensions of the frontier to the north by corresponding restrictions to the south. These counter-proposals were never entertained by the Commission; but, to meet the objection which appeared to be the cause of the Russian dissent, I expressed my readiness to add to the proposition of the majority the words "dans les limites strictement nécessaires à la défense." To this, again, he urged the objection that a wide divergence of opinion might appear as to what are the limits

strictly necessary to the defence, and proposed, for the next meeting, an interchange of views on this point, with the assistance of a map of the ground.

This took place, when, as appeared in the course of discussing particular examples on the map, all except the Russian Commissioner concurred in the general view that the limits necessary to the defence were those which would effectually secure the defensive works, or position, from molestation so long as the enemy should be beyond the frontier.

The Russian Commissioner again demanded time to consider and refer; and, at the next meeting, after saying that he much desired to be able to agree with his colleagues, he read the proposition set forth in my telegram No. 8. Instead of the words "certains points," it originally ran "points importants;" the change was made at the instance of Tahir Pasha, who seemed to think that the original words might, in some way, restrict the number of points found necessary for defence, and though I said I preferred the original words, I did not further object.

As the Russian Commissioner in this proposal abandoned his former proposals to restrict the rayons and to claim compensation for them, while he admitted the general principle which had been contended for that where the general line of the watershed, in the portion of the Balkans under consideration, did not include a proper line of defence, such a line should be sought beyond; and as all the rest of the Commission had already demonstrated their intention of rendering that frontier effectually defensible, I had no hesitation in accepting the proposition, the adoption of the different phraseology appearing no more than a proper concession to the Russian Commissioner, when he, on his part, was really conceding all that had been contended for.

It was understood at this time that the principle of deciding future questions by the vote of the majority was admitted, but as its acceptance was not distinctly recorded I put it to the vote and it was accepted.

The proposition of the Italian Commissioner, recorded in my despatch No. 19, which he produced after much discussion of the subject, may need explanation on a technical point. The crests of the hills designated in the Treaty, or of the lower ground between them, may possibly prove to be level plateaus, or else rounded summits of considerable breadth; in such cases the frontier-line will be carried to the northern extremity of the plateau or summit; but the majority consider themselves debarred by the Treaty from extending it to lower ground beyond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 303.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, May 4, 1879.*

WITH your Lordship's despatch No. 65 of the 12th ultimo, you kindly sent me two documents transmitted by Mr. Löwy on behalf of Baron H. de Worms, referring to the treatment of Jews in Roumania.

Inclosure No. 1 recapitulates in general terms the grievances of persons professing the Jewish creed in Roumania, and draws from this continued existence, eight months after the Congress of Berlin has decreed their cessation, the conclusion that nothing satisfactory is likely to be done to remedy the grievances complained of.

In support of this allegation three statements are made in this Memorandum:—

1. That the amendment of Article 7 of the Constitution is inadequate by itself to remedy the evil.

2. That as yet the difference in the treatment of Jews and Christains is fully maintained.

3. That M. Bratiano has declared that Jews cannot be admitted at once to rights of nationality, and that the tone of his speeches has been hostile to them, whilst he has been taken to task for his policy "par des hommes autorisés," and the name of M. Majorescu is brought forward in connection with this statement.

As regards the last allegation, the speeches of M. Bratiano have been reported upon to your Lordship in my previous despatches, and, though he was by no means explicit as to his intentions, and laid great stress on the impossibility of admitting to wholesale naturalization an alien population, I never heard that he had publicly committed himself in the way above referred to.

On the other hand, M. Majorescu has quite lately made known his views on this

question in a way which certainly does not correspond in the least with what is said of them in this Memorandum, as will appear from a separate despatch in which I shall have the honour to refer to his electoral address.

In the present state of parties it would be extremely rash to predict how this question will be dealt with by the majority in the next Chambers, in which two-thirds of the votes are indispensable by the Constitution to carry any amendment of it.

The reticence of the present Ministry may have appeared objectionable, but has since been justified by the attitude assumed by most of the leaders of the Opposition towards the electors.

As long as we do not know what class of native Jews will be admitted to rights of citizenship under Article 7 as amended, it will be impossible to give an opinion as to the sufficiency of such provision.

Only a few of the civil disabilities complained of in the Memorandum might have been remedied now, for most of those enumerated there apply to all foreigners, and, until some Jews are admitted to rights of citizenship, *i.e.*, until Article 7 has been amended, their exclusion from the Civil Service, from the Bar, from Judgships, from commissions in the army, &c., has to continue. Even the licences for selling tobacco cannot by law be given to aliens, and as for the fabrication of it, it is the exclusive right of the "Régie," and the complaint made under this head cannot have been made by any one acquainted with Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 304.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, May 4, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 12th ultimo, and to the second inclosure of Dr. Löwy which accompanies it, I have the honour to state that I have made careful inquiries as to the instances of violence against certain Jews in the district of Roman mentioned in it, but have been unable to obtain any information.

Roman is a long way from Bucharest, and I have no means at my disposal by which I could convince myself of the truth and accuracy of this and of similar allegations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 305.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, May 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I have ascertained that a person of the name of Broeiner, of the Jewish creed, has lately received military rank in the militia, and has had a civil appointment conferred upon him at Galatz; this is the first instance of the kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 306.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, May 6, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a translation of that portion of the address of M. Majorescu to his electors which refers to the Jewish question; this gentleman is one of the important leaders of the Opposition, who was represented

as favourable to a more liberal solution than anything M. Bratiano was likely to propose.

His opinion, as expressed in this speech, need no comment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Précis of Address of M. Majorescu to his Electors at Jassy, May 1879.

THE orator gave his opinion on the Jewish question in the following words:—

He said, "It is not of the dignity of the country to grant anything more than one is obliged to under foreign pressure.

"Here must be drawn the fundamental difference between public and constitutional law about which the foreign Powers have been able to occupy themselves as regards Roumania, and the civil internal law, which should be left entirely to the exclusive legislation of the country without any foreign influence.

"The basis of our Constitutional Law, in modern times, is the Convention of Paris of the 7th August, 1858. For reference, see Article XLVI of that Treaty relating to the Jews.

"After his *coup d'état* Prince Couza made a Statute, bearing the date of the 2nd July, 1864, which was called Statute in execution of the Treaty of Paris.

"Then came the Civil Code, brought into force since the 1st December, 1865.

"Article 16 of this Code exacts that all strangers and Jews have the right of demanding naturalization after a residence of ten years, or even of a shorter duration, but by a vote being passed in favour of each individually by the Chamber of Deputies and by the Senate.

"Article 8 bestows mother advantage to foreigners born in Roumania, but which is only accorded to foreigners professing the Christian religion.

"This prudent legislation was approved of, even by the foreign Powers; it solved during that period, in the most quiet and prudent manner, the grave question of political rights accorded to Jews.

"Unhappily Prince Couza was dethroned as soon as the 11th February, 1866. In the Constitution elaborated later on, Messrs. Bratiano and Rosetti attempted, contrary to the advice of all the prudent Deputies, to introduce into it the emancipation wholesale ("en bloc") of the Jews in Roumania.

"From this blamable error of the Radicals date all our troubles with the Jewish question.

"A riot at Bucharest prevented the voting of this radical proposition. But the fraction took advantage of the excitement existing at that time and introduced the other opposite measure in the Constitution, that is to say, Article 7, which positively excludes the Jews from the means of obtaining naturalization.

"This restrictive provision, as well as several measures more vexatious than efficacious, have not succeeded in preventing the alarming increase of these foreigners in our midst, and all the policy inaugurated by this Article 7 has brought us at last to the Treaty of Berlin.

"The Berlin Congress, called together to regulate the position of the Eastern countries after the war of 1877-78 in the same way as the Congress of Paris after the war in the East of 1853-55, declares at the commencement of the Treaty of the 13th July, 1878, that it is a continuation of the Act of the Treaty of Paris, and by Article XLIV it confirms, as regards the Jewish question, the principle already laid down by Article XLVI of the Treaty of Paris.

"The requirements of this principle were already complied with by the legislation of Prince Couza in Article 16 of our Civil Code, and it was only by Article 7 of the Constitution of 1866 that this reform was prevented.

"Therefore, Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin imposes upon us one single measure, and that is to simply strike out Article 7 of the Constitution.

"Nothing more. For up to this point and no further does the right exist by this Treaty to meddle in settling a question of public and constitutional law. The rest regards us. Therefore, our Civil Code must remain in full vigour with Articles 16, 8, and 9. The principle is laid down in Article 10 of our Code.

"This is the main condition, lawfully correct, under which we can accept the

adapting of ourselves to the Treaty of Berlin, and civilized Europe cannot, under pretext of humanity, exact that our nationality should be placed in jeopardy."

No. 307.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 281.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 3, 1879.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 31 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that, in Count Andrassy's opinion, the European Commissioners should certainly accompany Aleko Pasha to Philippopolis, in order to advise him, and that they should proceed there with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 308.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 282.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 4, 1879.

YESTERDAY, very shortly before I received your Lordship's telegram stating that you had never admitted to the Russian Government that there was no obligation upon them to have completed their evacuation before the 3rd August, I had been speaking on the subject to Baron Calice, and had repeated the conviction I had already expressed to Count Andrassy of no such admission having been made by Her Majesty's Government.

I reminded him that I had at the time communicated to Count Andrassy the views of Her Majesty's Government upon that point, as conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 4th March, which were that the occupation and all powers exercised under it must cease on the 3rd May, and that the evacuation must be carried on with all reasonable despatch from that date.

I was, I added, convinced that nothing more had been said by Her Majesty's Government from which the inference could be drawn that they would consider it reasonable to allow the same period for the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia as had been given for the passage through Roumania of such of the occupying force as were brought back to Russia by that route.

It was not, however, at Vienna that Count Schouvaloff spoke for the first time of the 3rd August as the date for the termination of the evacuation, for on the 7th April, at St. Petersburgh, he seems to have spoken to the Earl of Dufferin in the same sense, and as if the point was uncontested.

Since I communicated the opinion of Her Majesty's Government to Count Andrassy at the beginning of March he has never urged the adoption of his own interpretation; and, though insisting that it was the more correct one, he has admitted that, in the absence of all preparation, it was perhaps fortunate that the evacuation would not be completed at what he considered the proper time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 309.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 286. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 6, 1879.

I INFORMED Baron Calice that your Lordship considered it very desirable that the Secret Article of the Novi-Bazar Convention should not be expunged before Sir Henry Layard has had an opportunity of using his influence in persuading the Sultan to withdraw his objection to it. He replied that the Porte had already been informed that, if the Sultan makes a point of it, the Imperial Government will not refuse to cancel the Article; but that Sir Henry Layard will have the opportunity of communicating on the subject with His Majesty, as nothing will be decided till the return to Constantinople of Count Zichy, who will leave Trieste by the next week's steamer.

Count Andrassy, who spoke to me in the evening about it, professed his inability to understand what can induce the Sultan to cancel an Article so manifestly to his own advantage, but, as he has ascertained His Majesty to have mentioned the existence of a Secret Article to the Russian Ambassador, he presumes Prince Labanoff to have had a hand in it.

I remarked that some recent articles in the Russian newspapers had spoken of the certainty of a rupture between Russia and Austria taking place at no very distant date. If this were to occur, it might be supposed that Servia and Montenegro would be encouraged to attempt to dislodge the Austrians in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and it seemed to me not improbable that Prince Labanoff may have represented to the Sultan the impolicy of taking any engagement that might draw him into a conflict from which he would otherwise be able to stand aloof.

Count Andrassy said that he had been unable to find a plausible explanation of the Sultan's hesitation, and my conjecture might perhaps be the correct one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOTT.

No. 310.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 288.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 6, 1879.

THE resolution adopted by the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, settling the principle to be followed in marking the frontier, reported in General Hamley's telegrams to your Lordship Nos. 9 and 10, has been reported to the Austro-Hungarian Government by their Delegate, and is considered by them to be satisfactory, and calculated to accelerate the work of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 311.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 289. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 6, 1879.

WITH reference to Count Schouvaloff's statement to Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had admitted the 3rd August to be the date at which the Russian evacuation must terminate, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to Baron Calice your telegram No. 40 of the 3rd instant, stating that no such admission had been made by Her Majesty's Government, who had avoided any attempt to define the date, out of deference to Count Andrassy's opinion.

His Excellency said that the Austrian Government had just had a proof of the necessity of receiving Count Schouvaloff's assurances with caution, for Count Beust, after a conversation with him, reported him to have said that he had convinced Count Andrassy of the correctness of the view of the Russian Government, and intimated his Excellency to have withdrawn his objection to the 3rd August being regarded as the date fixed by the Treaty.

It was presumed that he had tried to convey the same impression to M. Waddington, who had agreed with Count Andrassy in thinking that the evacuation ought to have been carried out on the 3rd May.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOTT.

No. 312.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 13.)

Le 30 Avril, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LES récentes informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte dépeignent sous les couleurs les plus sombres la situation qui est faite aux populations Musulmanes de la Bulgarie. Les procédés vexatoires et les molestations dont elles sont l'objet de la part des Bulgares dépassent tout ce que l'imagination peut concevoir.

Votre Excellence en trouvera des preuves évidentes dans les deux adresses ci-jointes présentées par les habitants Musulmans de Choumla et de Pravadi.

Il n'y a pas jusqu'aux propriétaires de navires qui ne subissent les effets de cette persécution systématique. Au surplus, les Bulgares ne craignent pas d'annoncer publiquement leur intention de redoubler de rigueur envers les Musulmans aussitôt que les troupes Russes se seront retirées.

Cette perspective effrayante, jointe à la persécution intolérable dont les Musulmans sont l'objet, détermine ces derniers à émigrer en masse. Ce mouvement d'expatriation est la source de sérieux embarras qui vont chaque jour s'aggravant.

Je n'ai pas manqué d'attirer à plusieurs reprises sur cet état de choses l'attention du Prince Labanoff et d'insister auprès de lui sur la nécessité d'arrêter l'émigration en en supprimant les causes ; mais toutes nos démarches ont été jusqu'à présent absolument infructueuses.

Je prie votre Excellence de signaler cet état de choses à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à l'effet de l'amener à faire au Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg des représentations légitimes pour que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie veuille bien assurer aux populations Musulmanes la protection et la sécurité qui leur font actuellement défaut.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 313.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 13.)

Le 30 Avril, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE mouvement d'émigration des Bulgares vers la Roumélie Orientale a pris dans ces derniers temps de telles proportions et effecte aujourd'hui un caractère tellement inquiétant que j'ai cru devoir en entretenir le Prince Labanoff. J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie de la note que je viens de lui adresser à ce sujet.

Je me suis attaché à établir le but et la portée de l'émigration préparée et réalisée pour ainsi dire sous les auspices des agents Russes, les manœuvres auxquelles on a recours pour égarer les esprits ; les facilités et les encouragements que l'on accorde aux émigrants que l'on transporte gratuitement et que l'on installe dans les habitations et les terres appartenant aux réfugiés de la guerre ; enfin, la persécution systématique dirigée contre les Musulmans qui restent encore dans la Roumélie Orientale ; tous faits qui, rapprochés les uns des autres, ne laissent subsister aucun doute sur les intentions réelles des promoteurs du mouvement.

Je vous prie d'en entretenir le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité. Edifiées sur l'œuvre qui se poursuit en ce moment dans la Roumélie Orientale, les Puissances feront entendre, la Sublime Porte se plaît à le croire, leur voix autorisée à St. Pétersbourg dans l'intérêt de l'humanité et de la justice, et pour sauvegarder les principes de tolérance et d'égalité consacrés par le Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure in No. 313.

Caratheodory Pasha to Prince Labanoff.

Le 26 Avril, 1879.

LES récentes informations qui nous sont parvenues du Vilayet d'Andrinople m'imposent le pénible devoir d'entretenir de nouveau votre Excellence du mouvement d'émigration des Bulgares vers la Roumélie Orientale, mouvement qui s'accentue de jour en jour davantage et qui cause au Gouvernement Impérial les plus légitimes préoccupations.

Dans les divers entretiens que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec votre Excellence à ce sujet, je ne lui ai pas dissimulé notre conviction sur les véritables causes et sur le caractère et la portée de cette émigration.

Il devient chaque jour plus évident que le sentiment qui pousse les Bulgares du Vilayet d'Andrinople à quitter leurs foyers pour aller s'établir dans la province voisine n'est point spontané et encore moins inspiré par des appréhensions sur leur propre sort, puisque la tranquillité la plus parfaite règne dans toute l'étendue du Vilayet d'Andrinople, et que la sécurité la plus absolue est assurée à tous les habitants sans distinction.

La vérité, aujourd'hui indéniable, c'est que les Bulgares obéissent à des suggestions venues de l'extérieur et ayant pour but de les attirer dans la Roumélie Orientale dont on leur facilite l'accès par tous les moyens possibles. Cette action directe et incessante s'exerce à la connaissance des autorités Russes, qui ont même cru devoir adresser aux autorités Ottomanes d'Andrinople des plaintes contre les mesures légitimes qui avaient été prises pour arrêter ce mouvement d'émigration. Celui-ci dans les conditions où il se produit ne saurait plus être considéré comme l'effet de volontés individuelles, mais bien comme le résultat d'une entreprise aussi dangereuse qu'illégitime.

Un point sur lequel je me permettrai particulièrement d'appeler toute l'attention de votre Excellence c'est, d'une part, que les mêmes efforts qui sont employés pour attirer les Bulgares dans la Roumélie Orientale sont appliqués avec un parti pris non moins constant à contraindre les habitants Musulmans de cette province à abandonner leur pays ; et, d'autre part, que les Bulgares venus du dehors sont mis en possession des habitations et des terres appartenant aux émigrés Musulmans.

Ces manœuvres étant aussi bien contraires aux règles générales qui sont la base de l'ordre public qu'à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin, je les signale à votre Excellence avec l'entière conviction que les autorités militaires Russes recevront sans retard des instructions leur prescrivant non-seulement de s'abstenir de tout acte pouvant encourager l'émigration Bulgare, mais encore de prêter leur concours à toute mesure légitime tendant à arrêter ce mouvement anormal.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 314.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, May 13.)

Vienne, le 10 Mai, 1879.

M. L'AMBASSADEUR de France m'a communiqué copie d'une dépêche par laquelle le Gouvernement Français, répondant à l'appel du Cabinet d'Athènes, propose aux Puissances d'exercer la médiation prévue par l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, et formule sa pensée sur la manière dont la médiation devrait avoir lieu. Votre Excellence trouvera sous ce pli une copie de cette pièce.

Je constate avec plaisir que les vues du Cabinet Français au sujet de la rectification des frontières Helléniques s'accordent parfaitement avec celles du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal. Ainsi que j'ai déjà informé votre Excellence par le télégraphe, nous partageons l'opinion que le moment est venu pour les Puissances d'aborder les problèmes que renferme l'état actuel des rapports entre la Turquie et la Grèce. Nous félicitons le Cabinet de Versailles de l'initiative qu'il a prise dans cette question dont le Congrès de Berlin a déjà trouvé nécessaire de s'occuper dans l'intention d'écarter un des dangers qui peuvent menacer la paix en Orient. La solution qui a été proposée alors et qui se trouve consignée au treizième Protocole, nous semble offrir la meilleure garantie pour assurer la tranquillité, et nous croyons qu'il est autant dans l'intérêt des Puissances que dans celui de la Sublime Porte elle-même d'en faciliter l'exécution.

Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal accepte donc avec satisfaction la proposition de faire connaître à la Grèce que sa demande est accueillie et d'inviter en même temps les deux parties intéressées à nommer des Plénipotentiaires pour reprendre les négociations à Constantinople. Les Représentants des Six Puissances auprès de la Sublime Porte seraient chargés d'exercer la médiation. Nous croyons toutefois qu'au lieu de prescrire dès aujourd'hui leur réunion en conférence, il conviendrait mieux de les laisser se concerter librement entre eux sur les démarches à faire. Une divergence d'opinion qui rendrait l'unanimité impossible, enlèverait toute action à la Conférence. L'action collective une fois échouée, les Puissances ne pourraient faire valoir leur influence séparément qu'avec beaucoup moins d'autorité. Les démarches séparées des Représentants, inspirées des mêmes intentions et tendant au même but, ne témoigneront pas moins qu'une conférence de l'accord des Puissances et, en cas d'insuccès, il y a toujours encore lieu de revenir, et avec plus d'avantage, sur l'idée de la réunion en conférence.

Voilà la seule modification que nous voudrions voir introduite dans les propositions du Cabinet Français. Elle nous semble de nature à assurer, ou à faciliter du moins, l'exécution de son programme, auquel nous sommes heureux de pouvoir nous associer.

Je prie votre Excellence d'en entretenir M. Waddington et de m'informer de sa réponse.

Agréez, &c.

No. 315.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 416.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Rustem Pasha will return at once to the Lebanon, the Sultan having given up the idea of employing him here.

No. 316.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 417.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1879.

AFTER frequent communications with the Sultan, I have not succeeded in prevailing upon him to accept Secret Article of Austrian Convention. His Majesty says that, as the Article is restricted to defence of Novi-Bazar against foreign attack, it is of no value to him, and only in the interest of Austria; but that, if Austria will agree to enter into an alliance with him for the defence of all his European frontier similar to that into which he has entered with England, he would be quite ready to do so. The existence of the Secret Article is now generally known here. Russian Ambassador obtained information of it from some one in the Palace.

No. 317.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 418.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER is very anxious to know, as the financial difficulties of the Porte are very urgent, whether, if the French Government declines to name Commissioners, Her Majesty's Government will [?] do so, or will accept arrangement proposed in my telegram 411. His Highness says that the objection raised by the bondholders of 1858 and 1862 come from the intrigues of [?] who will at once [?] support scheme of Ottoman Bank submitted to Porte and to your Lordship, which he is ready to accept.

No. 318.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 420.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 62, Prince Battenberg is now at Livadia. Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me confidentially that Russian Ambassador, who was at one time anxious that Namyk Pasha should leave at once with Sultan's letter to the Emperor, now wishes to retard his departure, apparently in order that he should not meet the Prince. Sultan sent to tell me that Namyk Pasha's mission is purely complimentary.

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 421.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 59, Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees in your suggestion, and will instruct Aleko Pasha accordingly. I also entirely agree and have urged upon him not to let Aleko go with Stolipine alone, [? but] either that he should be accompanied by Commission or wait until it is assembled there. All the members are, I believe, ready to start for Philippopolis.

No. 320.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 422.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Russian Ambassador refuses to engage in any way that the evacuation shall be completed before the 3rd August.

No. 321.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 13, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has telegraphed that Russian Government had learnt [? with] great satisfaction, from your Lordship's speech in the House of Lords, that Her Majesty's Government admitted that Russia was under no obligation to complete evacuation of Eastern Roumelia before the 3rd August, and the Emperor had therefore declined to take the engagement desired by Count Andrassy to shorten the period by a month.

Count Andrassy hopes that Her Majesty's Government will join him in insisting that [? it] shall at least be no further delayed.

I said that in the first place your Lordship had never said that the evacuation need not be completed till the 3rd August, as was incorrectly reported in the papers; but, on the contrary, that it must be carried out with all reasonable dispatch; and, secondly, that you had more than once declared that it must not be delayed beyond the proper time.

No. 322.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 13, 1879.*

I HAVE just had a conversation with General Stolipine, at his request. He tells me he has done everything in his power to make Roumeliotes accept Treaty and Statute, pointing out that it was better and cheaper than Constitution of Bulgaria, and that Aleko Pasha was an older man than Prince of Bulgaria, and more capable of inaugurating a system of Government. He assured the people that if they rose they would not be assisted by Russia, and that as the Turkish troops were not coming there was no necessity for any revolt. He says that the people are now quite ready to accept new order of things, and prefer Statute to the Bulgarian Constitution. He proposes that a deputation of Bulgarians and Greeks should come to Constantinople to congratulate Aleko and accompany him to Philippopolis. His Excellency does not think that militia should be at once reduced to dimensions laid down by the Statute. This being done gradually, order is assured. He does not think that Colonel Vitalis is a good man as Commander of the two, gendarmerie and militia. He has not sufficient tact to be an organizer, and he does not speak language, which is indispensable. He proposes that Aleko Pasha should be named Commander-in-chief of the two forces, that Colonel Vitalis should be named Commander of gendarmerie, and Colonel Kisiakoff of the militia. He says the latter, knowing that the Emperor is determined on carrying out now state of things, will use his influence, which is great in this direction.

I said that I would communicate at once to your Lordship. I have read [?] above to General Stolipine, and, at his request, given to him a paraphrase of it.

The Turkish unofficial journals of to-day declare that matters are at a standstill, because Her Majesty's Government are insisting on Turkish occupation of Bourgas and Ichtiman. Will you kindly let me know if this is correct?

No. 323.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 178, there is no truth in the statement that we are pressing Porte to occupy Bourgas and Ichtiman. We have insisted only that it shall not surrender any of its rights under the Treaty, whatever use for the moment it may think fit to make of them. I certainly could not advise the Porte to appoint a Russian Commander of militia; I should think it very unwise.

No. 324.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879, 1 P.M.*

CAPTAIN EMILIUS CLAYTON, R.A., has been selected to serve under Major Trotter. He will start on the 22nd instant. Please inform Major Trotter, and instruct him to appoint Captain Clayton to be British Vice-Consul in Kurdistan.

No. 325.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879, 1·25 P.M.*

HAS Sultan made any agreement with the Russians which will prevent him from sending garrisons to Balkans if he should think it necessary? I ask this question because very misleading rumours have appeared here.

No. 326.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.*

WOLFF tells me Stolipine is pressing for appointment of a Russian as Colonel of militia. Is Porte disposed to yield? It seems to me very dangerous.

No. 327.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.*

PRAY tell Count Andrassy that Stolipine is urging Porte to appoint a Russian Commander of Eastern Roumelian militia. I have remonstrated. It appears to me most unwise.

No. 328.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 677.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.*

SIR HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF reports that General Stolipine is anxious that a Russian should be appointed Commander-in-chief of the militia in Eastern Roumelia.

Such a nomination seems to be very dangerous, and I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to endeavour to ascertain whether the Porte is disposed to yield to General Stolipine's wishes in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 329.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 678.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.*

THE Ottoman Ambassador called upon me to-day for the purpose of handing to me the inclosed complaints against the oppressive conduct of the Russians and Bulgarians towards the Mahommedan inhabitants of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and also against the Russian Government on account of the efforts they were making to induce the Bulgarian inhabitants of Adrianople to emigrate into the latter province.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs looks upon this combined movement as part of a single plan, having for its object to remove all the Mahommedan population from Eastern Roumelia and supply their places by Christians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 330.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 232.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 178 of this day's date, in which you inquire whether it is correct, as stated in the Turkish unofficial newspaper, that Her Majesty's Government are insisting on the occupation of Bourgas and Ichtiman by the Turkish forces.

* Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Plunkett, Sir H. Drummond Wolff, and Consul-General Palgrave.

I have informed you, in reply, that there is no truth in this report, and that Her Majesty's Government have only urged that the Porte should not surrender any of the rights which accrue to it under the Treaty, whatever use it may think fit to make of them for the moment.

In regard to the proposal made to you by General Stolipine, and reported in the same telegram, that Colonel Vitalis should be appointed Commander of the gendarmerie only in Eastern Roumelia, and that Colonel Kisiakoff should receive the command of the militia, both acting under Aleko Pasha as Commander-in-chief of the two forces, I have informed you that Her Majesty's Government certainly could not advise the Porte to appoint a Russian officer as Commander of the militia. Such a step would, in their opinion, be most unwise.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 331.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 265. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1879.

COUNT MÜNSTER informed me to-day, cautioning me at the same time that this communication was not for publication, that the new military organization in Russia would result in the addition of a much larger number of men to the Russian army than he had formerly anticipated. According to the information which he now received, which was confidential, but one which every reliance might be placed, the result of it would be to add to the Russian army in time of peace 56,000 men, in time of war little less than 400,000 men. He was at a loss to account for the policy of the Russian Government in adding so largely to their military burdens at a time when their finances were in so deplorable a condition, and he could not but wonder what political object they could have in view. He was not able in his own mind to disconnect these preparations wholly from the news which had reached him recently of the intrigues that had been going on between the French Delegates at the Roumelian Commission and the Russians. I said that, according to the information we had also received, there had been during the last few weeks a sensible change in the attitude of the French Delegates during these negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 332.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 326.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1879.

SIR H. DRUMMOND WOLFF reports that General Stolipine has suggested that, instead of the command of the militia and gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia being intrusted to Colonel Vitalis, Aleko Pasha should be named Commander-in-chief of the two forces, Colonel Vitalis should have the command of the gendarmerie, and the Russian Colonel Kisiakoff that of the militia.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to inform Count Andrassy that General Stolipine is urging this scheme upon the Porte, and to tell him that I have asked Sir H. Layard to ascertain the views of the Porte upon this matter, and to point out to them the dangerous character of the proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 333.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 328.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1879.

COUNT KÁROLYI called upon me to-day. He informed me that the Representative of Austria at Constantinople had understood Sir Henry Layard to say that, in the judgment of Her Majesty's Government, instructions for the International Commission should be agreed upon by the Five Powers, and should then be proposed to Russia for her acceptance. Count Andrassy was of opinion that by thus placing the Powers on one side and Russia on the other an irregularity as well as a mistake in policy would be committed. I assured him that the Austrian Representative at Constantinople must have misunderstood Sir H. Layard, because no such idea had ever been suggested or countenanced by Her Majesty's Government. He told me that in Count Andrassy's view instructions should be confined to a general direction to supervise and counsel the Governor in the execution of his duties, and to aid in the installation of the new régime. I concurred in the opinion that they should be of a general character.

Our conversation then turned upon the evacuation now in progress. Count Károlyi informed me that the Russian Government were disposed to refuse even to bind themselves to an evacuation by the date of the 3rd August; and he stated that it was thought that this change of attitude had arisen from the incorrect report of my speech in the House of Lords on Monday.

I said that I had received no intimation of that kind from the Russian Government, but that Her Majesty's Government, while in no way admitting that the Russian Government had any right to remain till the 3rd August, agreed most emphatically with that of Austria in thinking that no delay beyond the 3rd August should be permitted; and they would be ready, if as time went on the evacuation did not make sufficient progress, to join with Austria in addressing an identic note to the Government of St. Petersburgh, insisting on the conclusion of the evacuation in accordance with the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 334.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 329.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1879.

COUNT KÁROLYI gave me to-day a copy of the letter in which the Austrian Government had replied to the Circular of M. Waddington inviting the Powers to enter upon mediation with respect to the Greek question. I inclose a copy of it. As your Excellency will see, its terms are very similar to those which have been employed by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 335.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

LORD SALISBURY presents his compliments to Count Károlyi, and has the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch to Lord Lyons of the 6th instant, on the subject of M. Waddington's proposal for the offer of mediation by the Powers between Greece and Turkey.

Foreign Office, May 13, 1879.

No. 336.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleppo, April* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary *ad interim* at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Aleppo, April* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I had a long interview to-day with Mazhar Pasha, and, among other subjects, his Excellency spoke to me of Kiamil Pasha's administration of this vilayet. He used the strongest language in condemning both Kiamil Pasha's administration and his conduct; but he said that his Report on these matters would depend on the manner in which Kiamil Pasha was received at Constantinople.

He added that he believed the present Grand Vizier would be unable to maintain himself much longer in power, and in case of his dismissal, he did not anticipate that the results expected of the Commission could be attained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 337.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleppo, April* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary *ad interim* at Constantinople, reporting the liberation of thirteen of the Zeitoun prisoners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Aleppo, April* 25, 1879.

I HAD the honour to transmit a telegram to your Excellency, of which the following is a copy:—

"The Commission have already liberated fifty-four of the Zeitoun prisoners."

The Vali, Mazhar Pasha, and Nourian Effendi, communicated this intelligence to me, but from information I have since received, it appears that some mistake occurred in the transmission of the telegram from Marash, and that only thirteen prisoners have as yet been released.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 338.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 41. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, May* 5, 1879.

A DISPUTE, which is assuming serious proportions, has broken out between the inhabitants of the kazas into which the Sandjak of Sphakia is divided, and, as it well illustrates the condition of anarchy into which the country seems to be drifting, I take the liberty of explaining it to your Lordship.

The Sandjak of Sphakia, which lies to the south-east of Canea, comprises the three kazas of Sphakia, Hagios, Basilios, and Apokorona, the latter kaza being separated from the two former by the mountains of Sphakia. When the insurrection of 1866-68 was suppressed, these kazas were formed into a separate sandjak governed by a Mutessarif, the little town of Sphakia being chosen as the seat of Government. Sawas Pasha, the first Mutessarif of the new district, after residing nine months in Sphakia, determined to transfer the seat of his Government nearer Canea, and came to live at Vamos, in Apokorona, four hours distant from the capital of the vilayet. Sphakia became henceforth the seat of a Kaïmakam, and all important questions were referred to Vamos, while the members of the different Courts and the various employés came naturally to be chosen for the most part from among the inhabitants of Apokorona. The new arrangement was peaceably acquiesced in, and it is only since the disturbances of last year have materially weakened the Government that any serious opposition to it has shown itself. The dispute has been growing for many months, and has at last come to a head. The General Assembly declined to take any cognizance of it, and the Vali doubts his competence to settle it without the sanction of the Assembly, which is no longer in existence. A deputation has now come to Canea, chosen by the two discontented kazas, and have communicated to the Vali the resolution of their constituents, that, if the seat of Government be not re-established at Sphakia, they will give notice to their Kaïmakams and other functionaries to vacate their posts, thus putting themselves in an attitude of rebellion against the Government. No other district would have ventured to push matters so far, but the Sphakians rely on their barren mountains and the weakness of the authorities to protect them from the consequences of the act they contemplate.

Photiades Pasha is at a loss how to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute, for to yield to the pretensions of the Sphakians would be creating a dangerous precedent by all means to be avoided.

The Vali has not obtained that ascendancy over the public mind which is essential to the character of a successful Governor.

His Excellency is naturally deficient in experience of administrative duties, and, being aware of this, while surrounded by interested advisers urging him to different courses, his acts sometimes partake of a hesitation which is earning for him the reputation of weakness. The fault is, however, mainly due to the want of support which his Excellency counted on receiving from the Ministry in Constantinople. Not one of the proposals put forward by the General Assembly has as yet been accepted, and this culpable negligence is attributed by the Cretans as part of a policy purposely pursued to humiliate them, and the Vali thus comes in for a share of the odium attaching to the Porte itself for the persistent neglect of their demands. The fresh privileges, moreover, acquired by the Christians, and the pretensions to which they have given rise, render the post of Governor-General of Crete more difficult than ever.

The opportune arrival of Colonel Allix, who has been intrusted with the duty of organizing the local police, will give fresh courage to the Governor to cope with the difficulties of his position. If, as the Colonel seems to expect, money will be forthcoming from Constantinople to allow him to proceed with the work before him, the most formidable obstacles with which Photiades Pasha had to contend will be overcome, and I see no reason why order and tranquillity should not be soon established. Certainly a majority of the Cretans would rejoice at such a result, as the people are weary of commotion, and are kept in a state of unrest by the spectacle of feebleness and indecision which have characterized the action of the authorities since the cessation of hostilities.

The Vali returned from his tour of inspection on the 1st instant, but will start again in a day or two to visit this end of the island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 339.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 196 of the 2nd instant, in which I inclosed a copy of a note which I had addressed to the President of the Council, Minister *ad interim* for Foreign Affairs, acquainting the Italian Government that Her Majesty's Government had approved the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg to the Throne of Bulgaria, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a note which I have received from M. Depretis, stating that the Italian Government have likewise made known at Constantinople their assent to this election, but adding that a doubt had arisen in their minds whether, as it is a question of giving effect to the IIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, it would not be desirable that the assent of the Powers should be recorded in a collective Act, Protocol, or Declaration, or, at least, by an exchange of identical notes with the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 339.

M. Depretis to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rome, May 10, 1879.*

I HAVE to thank your Excellency for the note which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 2nd of this month, informing me that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty had approved the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg to the Bulgarian Throne.

The Government of the King has also made known at Constantinople its assent to this choice. A doubt, however, has arisen in our minds whether, as it is a question of an assent to be given in pursuance of the IIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, it would not be desirable that the assent of the Powers should be recorded in a collective Act, Protocol, or Declaration, or at least by an exchange of identical notes with the Sublime Porte.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) DEPRETIS.

No. 340.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

COUNT KÁROLYI presents his compliments to Lord Salisbury, and has the honour to thank his Lordship for the communication of his despatch to Lord Lyons on the subject of M. Waddington's proposal for the offer of mediation by the Powers between Greece and Turkey.

Belgrave Square, May 14, 1879.

No. 341.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 424.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 14, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul-General at Philippopolis, dated yesterday:—

"Twenty Bulgarian volunteers for Macedonian insurrection have returned here, forming part, they say, of 600 men who have lately abandoned enterprise.

"According to intelligence received by local Eagle Committee, preparations for that insurrection have been suspended."

No. 342.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 425.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 14, 1879.*

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires thinks it necessary, before the Commission leaves for Eastern Roumelia, that it should have some distinct instructions to guide it in its relations with Governor, otherwise conflict might arise between them; but he admits the importance of its departure without delay for Philippopolis. I told him that I would telegraph to your Lordship on the subject, and you may think it desirable to communicate with the French Government. As neither the Commission nor Aleko Pasha is at Philippopolis, the Russians are, it appears to me, under no control.

No. 343.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 427.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 69, Turkish Minister repeats the explicit denial already given to me by the Sultan [? and] Grand Vizier that any agreement has been entered into with Russia which will prevent Turkish garrisons being sent to Balkan, [? and] this appears to be confirmed by Obroucheff's speech.

No. 344.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 428.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 14, 1879.*

PORTE has requested me to support their view with regard to disputed point in the delimitation of Montenegrin frontier, and I am informed that you are expecting to hear from me on the subject.

I am quite unable to give an opinion.

Count Corti suggests that Austrian Plenipotentiaries, who are chiefly responsible for the new line of frontier, can best explain what they meant.

No. 345.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 14, 1879.*

RECEIVED telegram No. 23. Vitalis called last night to say that he had received his Firman, which had been delayed. I quite agree about Kisiakoff. I think that pressure should be brought to bear at St. Petersburgh that Vitalis should be supported by Russians. He has not turned out as well as I expected, but, at all events, is better than a Russian. I learn indirectly that the Russians are secretly working against the return of the Commission at all. I think, myself, it should return to instal Governor, but, for reasons already stated, its stay should not be prolonged. My telegram No. 178 was intended to reproduce General Stolipine's views in his own language, without any expression of my own opinions.

No. 346.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

I HAVE received following telegram from Sir H. Layard, dated to-day:—

[See No. 342.]

Pray ask French Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he will instruct his Delegate to vote that the Commission should go to Philippopolis to assist Aleko with advice, and help him to introduce new régime. If more special instructions are wanted it seems to me they can be given later; but time presses now, and both Aleko and Commission ought to be in Philippopolis.

No. 347.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF repudiates vehemently idea that any Russian diplomatist can have thrown any doubt on their obligation and intention of completing evacuation of Balkan peninsula before August 3.

No. 348.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879, 2 P.M.

YOURS 175. The only satisfaction Dufferin reported himself to have obtained was an assurance from Jomini that Stolipine was a fool. I urged very strongly on Schouvaloff last Wednesday to get Stolipine removed, but I do not expect to succeed.

No. 349.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.[a]

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879, 5·45 P.M.

NOTICE has been given of a question in Parliament about Osman Agha. Please ascertain at once what has become of him since his sentence of exile to Siberia was commuted by the Emperor of Russia.

No. 350.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879, 7·15 P.M.

YOURS 179. No use representing at St. Petersburgh, as there is no Government there. I have spoken to Count Schouvaloff about Vitalis. He says he represented it from Vienna; that he will telegraph again to-night; but that Aleko will take possession to-morrow, and Stolipine disappears. So that Stolipine's hostility to Vitalis has ceased to be important. He expected Commission would go with Aleko. It is desirable that they should not remain behind if it can be avoided.

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[a] Identic to Mr. Plunkett.

No. 351.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

PRAY tell Count Andrassy that Count Schouvaloff to-day read me a telegram proposing that Prince Battenberg should, before taking up his Government, visit all the Courts of Europe. I protested against this idea as involving an unnecessary continuance of provisional régime, which was limited by Treaty to nine months. I pressed on him earnestly the impolicy, from a Russian point of view, of awakening suspicion by petty infringements of Treaty when they had made up their minds to observe it in the main. I then informed him that both at Vienna and Constantinople Russian Ambassadors were using language tending to indicate at least a doubt whether their evacuation would be complete on the 3rd August. He denied in the most positive and warmest manner the possibility of this information being exact. The Emperor's determination was quite firm, and the strictest orders had been issued. "We know," he said, "that the 3rd of August is the fatal day; there is no 4th of August for us."

No. 352.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.[a]

(No. 304.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Corbett, Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, together with its inclosure.

The matter in it to which I desire to draw your Excellency's attention is an official letter from the Greek Minister of Public Instruction to an American lady who desired to open a school at Athens. From this document, which is quoted in the inclosed copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Corbett by Mr. Sampson, the Secretary of the Presbyterian Mission in Greece, it appears that if any child belonging to the Greek Church is admitted to school, the children attending that school must be taught the Orthodox Catechism by a priest of that Church, and a picture of the Virgin Mary must be hung up in the school. The Minister of Public Instruction concludes by warning the lady in question that if the promoters of the school are "prevented from complying with these requirements of the law, but desire to proceed in establishing a private school of any known religious denomination, let them know that we have no difficulty in granting them permission for this object, provided only the children of Protestants attend upon said school, which, however, will continue under the immediate supervision of the authorities. In this case they ought to know what a responsibility they assume if it be discovered that even one scholar of the Orthodox faith has been received by them."

I should be travelling beyond the subjects with which it is my duty to deal if I were to express my opinion upon the merits of the legislation which an independent Government has thought it right to adopt upon a matter of this kind. But the circumstance that it is now contemplated to tender the mediation of the six Powers under the Treaty of Berlin in order to carry forward negotiations which have for their object the transfer of territory from the rule of the Sultan to that of the King of the Hellenes, gives an international interest to the existence in the legislation of Greece of the provisions to which I have called your attention. In the Treaty of Berlin, the Congress, while assigning new territory to Montenegro, Servia, and Roumania, and conditionally acknowledging the independence of those States, was careful to provide effective securities for religious liberty, and in Article LXII its maintenance within the Ottoman Empire is enforced in terms still more comprehensive and precise.

It would appear, therefore, to have been the intention of the Signatory Powers that the subjects of the Sultan should continue to enjoy the religious liberty which recent Ottoman legislation had already bestowed upon them, and that a similar advantage should be also secured to those populations who, by the action of the Congress, were in the position of being transferred from the rule of His Imperial Majesty to that of some other potentate.

[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.

It seems to Her Majesty's Government that it would not be in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin to exclude from the benefits of the LXIInd Article the inhabitants of those parts of Thessaly and Epirus which may, as the result of pending negotiations, be placed under the authority of the Government of Athens. In their judgment, it follows as a necessary consequence that any cession of territory that is made must be subject to the condition that the Greek Government shall bestow upon its new subjects in the ceded territory the same liberty in respect to the exterior practice of religion that is conferred upon them by the laws of the Ottoman Empire. The law prohibiting the admission of a child belonging to the Orthodox Church into any school which does not belong to it is clearly in contravention of this liberty.

Her Majesty's Government think it desirable to ascertain at the present juncture, before the mediation commences, how far the views which I have indicated to your Excellency are shared by the other Signatory Powers. I have to request your Excellency, therefore, to speak in the above sense to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 353.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 680.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 422 of yesterday's date that, according to the statement made to you by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople refuses to engage in any way that the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia shall be completed before the 3rd August.

Count Schouvaloff, on the other hand, utterly repudiates the idea that any Russian diplomatist can throw doubts on the obligation and intention of his Government to complete the evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula before that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 354.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 660.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the opinion expressed by the French Chargé d'Affaires that the Commission, before leaving for Eastern Roumelia, should have some distinct instructions to guide it in its relations with the Governor.*

I have to request your Excellency to inquire whether the Minister for Foreign Affairs will instruct the French Delegate to vote that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha to Philippopolis, in order to assist him with their advice, and to help him to introduce the new régime.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that if more special instructions to the Commission as to their relations with Aleko Pasha are required, they can be given at a later period; but time presses now, and both Aleko Pasha and the Commission ought already to be at Philippopolis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 342.

Inclosure 2 in No. 357.

Translation of a Letter of the Protestant Pastor at Geyhi (Cassaba), dated April 17, 1879.

ON 9th April, Sadik Bey, with his two sons, Fezallah and Omar, and his brother Murad of the village of Horhor, accompanied by their retainers, and armed with clubs and other weapons, first attacked a Turk, Mehmed Ali by name, and beat him severely, wounding him in the head. They then set about beating the villagers indiscriminately, Turks and Armenians, so that the arms and heads of several men and women were either broken or wounded. They then fell on the house of one Hadchadoor, a Protestant, beating him so severely that he was made sick, and his daughter-in-law's arm was injured. A Government physician has been sent to care for the sick and wounded. For five days Turks and Armenians, men and women, natives of Horhor, are here, having fled from their persecutors. Among them are two Armenian women whose arms are injured, one Protestant, Mauruy by name, whose head is wounded, and one poor Turkish woman is in a pitiable state from a broken arm. Two women remained in Horhor sick in bed from the beatings they had suffered.

You are aware, from what I have previously written, that these graceless Beys care nothing for the Government, and lose no opportunity to torment the poor people, as, for example, the beating of a certain one by eight soldiers, who were stirred up to it by Abogmasouts Bey.

Would that our Kaïmakam might receive more authority and encouragement from the Government of the vilayet to do those things which we confidently expect of him. You now see that the natives of Horhor have begun to suffer punishment, and perhaps they will suffer much more, because they have ventured to complain of these Beys. For this reason the villagers are in great fear, and they did not wish to return to their homes, but although their cause had not been tried the unrighteous Vartabed, making the Easter holidays an excuse, insisted on his own people returning. We have reason to believe the Vartabed has received 2,600 piastres caimé from Ismail Bey, of Osnuh, so that he need not protect the villagers of the district from their oppressors.

I said above that the villagers feared to return to their village. This is especially true of the Protestants Hadchadoor, Boghas, and Harootum Marekarean, because the Beys are especially incensed against all Protestants.

At the time of the attack at Horhor, Hadji Sadik Bey called out "Vouroun Kiafir, giaourbri culdurun, kulundyimiz parlar, sham gibi etmeli" ("Strike the infidels, kill the unbelievers, let our swords shine; it must be done as at Damascus").

News came yesterday that many were to go to the monastery, as they are beginning to despair of securing justice, but the Protestants now here sent word urging them to come here and press their suit, and some have come. But I have little hope any one of the Beys will be imprisoned, though some whom they have set on may be arrested.

If the state of affairs does not soon improve, there is fear that many will emigrate.

No. 358.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 429.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 70, Minister for Foreign Affairs states that they have already appointed a Commandant of militia, Colonel Vitalis, who informed me to-day that he had received his commission.

No. 359.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, May 15, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 25. I have seen General Stolipine, who has given me satisfactory assurances, and a long Memorandum respecting Osman, and I have telegraphed to Mr. Walpole to obtain details.

As the Memorandum, which is rather long for transmission by telegraph, should in justice to General Stolipine be made known, I should be glad if the question were postponed for a week till receipt of a despatch, which I shall send by the messenger.

No. 360.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 181.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, May 15, 1879.

GENERAL STOLIPINE tells me he intends removing his staff from Philippopolis before the arrival of Aleko.

He says the evacuation could take place very expeditiously, and the term mentioned, viz., August 1, is far too long. The sooner it takes place the better.

No. 361.

Mr. Walpole to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
Philippopolis, May 15, 1879.

OSMAN BEY, who was sentenced to exile for life to Siberia for protesting against the destruction of mosques, and whose sentence was commuted to three months' imprisonment, is still in prison here.

In answer to his friends' inquiries, they are told he will be released shortly, but sent out of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 362.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, May 15, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Baron Jomini read to me a telegram from Labanoff, dated March 31 (N.S.), stating that Stolipine had commuted the sentence of exile to Siberia into detention of three months, including the period for which Osman Agha had already been kept in imprisonment, and that he should then be expelled from Eastern Roumelia.

Jomini has no later intelligence, but presumes the man has been already set free. He promised to telegraph to Labanoff at once, to inquire where the man now is.

No. 363.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, May 15, 1879.

I LEARN from Jomini that the mission of Nanyk Pasha to the Emperor at Livadia has been postponed till after the Bulgarian deputation have left.

He says that Austria and Italy have expressed themselves in favour of complete evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the 3rd of July, but that Russia can take no such engagement, although, as a matter of fact, evacuation has already begun, and will probably be completed by that time, except to the extent of three or four regiments still left to ensure the maintenance of order till the 3rd of August.

No. 355.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No 236.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 14, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 179 of this day's date, in which you suggest that pressure should be exercised at St. Petersburgh to induce the Russian Government to accept and support Colonel Vitalis' appointment as Commander of the militia and gendarmerie in Eastern Roumelia.

I have informed you, in reply, that there is no practical use in making representations at St. Petersburgh at this moment, as the Executive Government is directed from Livadia.

I have, however, spoken on the subject of Colonel Vitalis to the Russian Ambassador here, who tells me that he had made representations to his Government in the sense desired while he was at Vienna, and that he will telegraph again to-night to the same effect.

Count Schouvaloff remarked, however, that as Aleko Pasha was to enter upon his Government to-morrow, General Stolipine's authority would disappear, and his hostility to Colonel Vitalis had, in consequence, ceased to be of any importance. Count Schouvaloff seemed to take it for granted that the European Commission would accompany Aleko Pasha to Philippopolis, and it would certainly be desirable that they should not remain behind if it can be avoided.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 331.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 14, 1879.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform Count Andrassy that Count Schouvaloff read to me to-day a telegram in which it was proposed that Prince Battenberg should, before assuming the Government of Bulgaria, visit all the Courts of Europe.

I protested against this idea on the ground that it involved an unnecessary continuance of the provisional régime, which was limited by the Treaty of Berlin to nine months from the date of the exchange of the ratifications. I earnestly pressed on his Excellency the impolicy, from a Russian point of view, of awakening suspicion by petty infringements of the Treaty, to the observance of which, in the main, the Russian Government had determined to adhere.

I then informed him that both at Vienna and at Constantinople language was being used by the Russian Ambassadors which tended to indicate at least a doubt whether the evacuation would be completed on the 3rd August. He denied, in the most positive and warmest manner, the possibility of the correctness of this information.

"We know," he said, "that the 3rd of August is the fatal day; there is no 4th of August for us." He assured me that the Emperor was quite firm in his determination upon this point, and that the strictest orders had been issued to insure its punctual execution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 357.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord,
Trebisond, April 28, 1879.

I HAVE forwarded yesterday to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople the following telegram, referring to the state of things in the district of Geghi, of which I made mention in my despatch No. 38 of the 16th instant:—

"Reference to No. 49. According to Erzeroum letters of 24th, Geghi Beys, four in number, having obtained from Constantinople dismissal of Kaïmakam, Mussulmans and Christians begged for revocation of order. In revenge Beys beats and wounded Horhor villagers, compelling them to flee to residence of Kaïmakam. Exile of said Beys is only measure calculated to restore order."

I have now the honour to inclose copy of Mr. Cole's note on the subject, as well as translation of the Armenian letter mentioned by him.

According to Mr. Cole's statement, it seems that the Kaïmakam will retain his post in consequence of foreign interference at Erzeroum, and as conscientious and energetic Governors as that of Geghi appears to be are rare, it is to be hoped that it will be so. But this is not enough; he should be authorized to deal severely with the promoters of the disorders reported to have taken place at Horhor.

Public peace is usually troubled in Anatolia by a few Beys or other influential Mussulmans; the men of the people being only their instruments. Many cases of brigandage and murder may be ascribed to the same source, but the promoters who usually take no active part in them always evade justice.

So long as the underlying causes of evil are not removed it can hardly be expected to see more security established in these parts. The difficulty in most cases is said to be to bring home the culpability of the promoters. But, in the present outrage at Horhor, Hadji Sadik Bey, together with his sons, Fezullah and Omar, and his brother, Murad, were at the head of their men.

Imprisonment is a sort of mitigated punishment, which is not adequate in circumstances of this description. Usually, owing to their influence, the condemned Beys or others find the means to recover their liberty, and when they do so the populations are more oppressed than before.

In my humble opinion nothing short of exile will do to extinguish all hope among the partizans of the Beys, restore confidence among the quiet inhabitants of the country, and give a salutary example to the other restless influential Mussulmans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 357.

The Rev. R. M. Cole to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Erzeroum, April 24, 1879.

Sir,

JUST as the post is leaving I must seek to bring before you in brief the state of things in the Geghi region. You will remember that the Beys in that province have ever for three years, and especially of late, given much trouble.

The province now has a Kaïmakam that both Christians and Turks, save four Beys, like and hold on to; but the Beys have, by bribes, sought, and so far succeeded, that an order came from Constantinople that the Kaïmakam be deposed from office. We and the Consuls have worked to have this countermanded and the man retained, which seems will be realized. But said Beys will not have him, as he protects Christians. As they cannot get rid of the Kaïmakam, they are now looking about to wreak vengeance on such as they presume have informed against them and their cause.

Instance, April 9th.—Hadji Sadik Bey and two sons, with his brother, Murad Bey, made an attack on a village (Horhor by name) three and a-half hours from Cassaba, where Kaïmakam resides. They began by beating a Turk, because he and other Turks had united with Christians in an appeal to the Kaïmakam against the Beys. From beating him and his bride they strike out right and left, beating here and there Turk, Christian, women, bride, men—whatever come in their way. The poor villagers flee to the Cassaba, where they remain for five days, save such as could not go or had nothing to do in the matter. Two women were seriously wounded, and many men, this one having broken arm and that wounded head, &c.

This is the story in brief and with greatest haste. I will send the letter to Mr. Parmelee, so he can translate to you. I would do it if I had time, but would not have it delayed. Till those Beys are exiled there can be no security to life and property in these parts.

(Signed) R. M. COLE.

No. 364.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 15, 1879.

WHEN I took your telegram No. 52 to Count Andrassy, I found that he had already intimated his acceptance of proposal that Prince Battenberg should visit the different Courts before taking up his Government, it being understood that the necessary prolongation in the provisional régime was to be allowed at Prince's request.

Count Andrassy regrets having returned this answer before being acquainted with your Lordship's opinion, and is vexed at any appearance of a difference of the views of the two Cabinets even on minor points, but he says that when proposal was made to him he thought since Prince had gone to Livadia, for which there was no necessity, it will be well for him to go to the other Courts, so that he should not have the appearance of being a Russian nominee.

A refusal might have been also regarded as uncourteous, which he wished to avoid, and the Prince will be here probably on Wednesday next.

Count Andrassy says there must of course be no relaxation of the Russian evacuation in consequence of this delay.

No. 365.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 15, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople telegraphs that Sultan still insists upon abrogating the Secret Article of the Convention, but would agree to an arrangement binding Austria to assist Turkey if attacked in occupied districts without binding Turkey in case of an attack on Austria.

This Government will not listen to the proposal, and Count Zichy will be authorized to expunge the Article altogether.

No. 366.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 692.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith an extract in translation of a Report received from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Cavalla, in which he gives a singularly unsatisfactory account of the state of Turkish administration in his district.

I should be glad if your Excellency would make inquiries as to the correctness of Dr. Pecchioli's description, and would inform me of the result.

Should his statements be substantiated, it would be desirable to call the attention of the Porte to the condition of affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 366.

Translation of the Political part of Mr. Pecchioli's Commercial Report from Cavalla, dated March 20, 1879.

IN regard, Sir, to the political events which have transpired in 1878, I think it useless to recapitulate circumstances of which I have conscientiously kept you informed by my Reports; yet, not to omit the actual state of things, I have to record:—

1. That the Government of the Porte has not yet carried out any of the administrative reforms so long promised and impatiently expected. Against all sense of justice, civil and commercial causes are always judged here by the Cadi, the Koran in

hand! Against all sense of justice, the establishment of a commercial and civil Tribunal has to be waited for.

The Customs, as I had the honour to report to you on a former occasion, are always administered in a way to cripple commerce and rob the Government.

On this subject, Sir, I have reported to you eloquent facts.

Against all justice, the Christian Ottoman subjects are not admitted in certain cases to take oaths in the Tribunals, like the faithful believers in Mahomet.

The Municipal Councils do nothing towards the maintenance in a good state of the roads; and not only do they neglect to mark out new roads, but they allow those which exist to fall to ruin through want of care.

The money of the Municipality is shamelessly appropriated by the members, and even by the Government, and one never sees any useful work done for the towns which claim it.

Against all justice, as I have often proved, the seat of Government is about to be transferred from Drama to Xanthi, instead of Cavalla.

Against the most elementary rules of public health, the authorities of Xanthi and Darideré have not done anything to relieve the state of the poor villagers at Darideré, where the typhus has been raging. Neither doctors nor medicine have been sent, nor has anything been done to render healthy the villages and the houses, isolate the sick, and give them the means of having better nourishment.

Nothing, nothing whatever, except the unpardonable fault of having propagated false news of the existence of the plague, while all the medical men declared it was typhus.

As a proof of the folly of the Governor of Darideré, I send you, Sir, copy of a telegram he sent me, in answer to mine, inquiring the state of health of Sanikova. The doctors at Xanthi had sent in a Report declaring the existence of typhus, and the Governor telegraphs to me that there is plague as well as typhus.

Fortunately, I relied on the medical Report, and not on the telegram, for otherwise I might innocently have been the cause of the false news of the plague, which has done so much injury to local trade and the interests of Europe.

Public tranquillity is tolerably good, but the state of the rural districts leaves much to desire. Many bands of deserters from the military attack merchants and rob them, even close to the gates of the villages.

Rumour says that the Bulgarians, when the last Russian soldier will have recrossed the Balkans, will endeavour, by force of arms, to destroy the Treaty of Berlin, returning to that of St. Stefano, in all matters which regard the functions of an unique Bulgarian Kingdom.

The day before yesterday (18th March) Mr. Robert Walpole passed through Cavalla, attached to the English Commission of Philippopolis; he was accompanied by a Protestant clergyman, going to Constantinople.

The state of health in all this sandjak is excellent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DR. STANISLAS PECCHIOLI.

No. 367.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 694.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1879.*

MR. MALET reports in his despatch No. 352 of the 26th ultimo that he had urged the Porte to take steps to cause a strict inquiry to be made into the alleged ill-treatment of certain Christian refugees from Soukoum Kaleh by Turkish authorities in Amasia, which had been brought to his notice by the Reverend George W. Wood on behalf of the American missionaries at Constantinople.

I have to state to your Excellency that Mr. Malet's action in this matter meets with my approval, and that I have furnished Colonel Wilson with a copy of the correspondence, in order that inquiry may be made by that officer on the spot, and a report be furnished by him on the facts of the case as represented in the statement which has been received through Mr. Wood from the preacher and officers of the Armenian community in Amasia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 368.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1879.*

I HAVE to state to you that the course you have pursued with regard to the points connected with the Boundary Commission, of which you are a member, as reported in your despatch No. 27 of the 29th ultimo, meets with my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 369.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 19 of the 1st instant relating the proceedings at the nineteenth meeting of the Bulgarian Commission, and the resolutions passed as to the principles to be observed in the demarcation of the Balkan frontier.

The course which you have pursued in regard to this matter is entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 370.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Wilson.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures, which have been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, relative to the alleged ill-treatment by the Turkish authorities of Amasia of certain Christian refugees from Soukoum Kaleh.

I have to request that you will cause inquiry to be made on the spot, and furnish me with a report on the facts of the case as brought to Mr. Malet's notice by the Reverend George Wood on behalf of the American Missionaries resident in Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 371.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1879.*

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has laid before me several considerations which, in his opinion, ought to induce Her Majesty's Government to urge the cession of Janina by the Porte.

The one upon which he principally relied was, that if this territory was not ceded to Greece, the Porte would not be benefited, while Greece would be greatly injured. The Albanians, he said, would assuredly, in that case, shake off the dominion of the Porte, which was already little more than nominal, and a new nationality would be formed which the Greeks would not be able to overcome, and which would, generally, be opposed to their interests.

He also stated to me that a Memorandum had been submitted during the Conferences at Prevesa, by the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, showing by precedent that when a valley was spoken of as a boundary, what was meant by the valley was not the lowest part of it, but the watershed by which it was limited; that in the case of the Peneus, if the southern watershed were taken, the frontier of Greece would be no further advanced than it is now; and that, therefore, in the opinion of the Greek

Government, the true interpretation of the decisions of the Congress was that the northern watershed should be the future boundary.

I told M. Gennadius that I should be very glad to have a copy of this Memorandum on the part of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs; but I did not hold out to him any hope that Her Majesty's Government would accept this definition of the word "valley" used in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

I am, &c.
Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 372.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 105.)
My Lord, *Nisch, April 29, 1879.*

I HAVE to report to your Lordship that I had this day the honour of being received with the usual formalities by Prince Milan at a public audience, at which I delivered into His Highness's hands the letters from Her Majesty the Queen, accrediting me to His Highness in the capacity of Her Majesty's Minister Resident.

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I availed myself of this opportunity to address His Highness a few words, expressing, in Her Majesty's name, the confident hope that Servia would loyally and strictly fulfil all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and I have accordingly the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the English text of the short speech I addressed in French to His Highness, and of his gracious reply thereto.

I was subsequently received by Her Highness the Princess, and also had the honour of dining with their Highnesses and the principal officers of their Court.

I have only to add that both here and along the whole route hither, I have, as the Representative of Her Majesty's Government, been quite overwhelmed with attentions and most friendly demonstrations on the part of the local authorities as well as the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 372.

Mr. Gould's Address to Prince Milan.

Monseigneur, *April 29, 1879.*

J'AI l'honneur de délivrer à votre Highness les lettres de mon auguste Souverain, qui m'accrédite auprès de votre Highness en qualité de son Ministre Résident. Sa Majesté étant pleinement convaincue que les stipulations du Traité de Berlin seront, dans tous les points, aussi loyalement que strictement exécutées de la part de la Servie, a tenu à donner une nouvelle preuve de ses sentiments amicaux envers votre Highness en reconnaissant, sans plus tarder, l'indépendance de la Principauté. Sa Majesté m'a de plus spécialement recommandé de renouveler à votre Highness l'assurance de l'intérêt vif et profond qu'elle prend à tout ce qui concerne la prospérité et le bien-être de la Principauté, et de m'efforcer, par tous les moyens en mon pouvoir, de maintenir et de resserrer de plus en plus les liens d'amitié qui existent déjà si heureusement entre les deux pays—devoir d'autant plus agréable à remplir que, comme je me permets de l'espérer, je pourrai compter sur la bienveillance de votre Highness et sur le concours de votre Gouvernement.

Inclosure 2 in No. 372.

Prince Milan's Reply to Mr. Gould's Address.

M. le Ministre,

C'EST avec des sentiments de vive satisfaction et de profonde reconnaissance que je reçois aujourd'hui les lettres par lesquelles votre auguste Souveraine, Sa Majesté la Reine et Impératrice Victoria, vous accrédite auprès de moi en qualité de son Ministre Résident.

Les assurances de la gracieuse sympathie et de la haute sollicitude que Sa

Majesté daigne nous porter, à moi et mon pays, et dont vous venez d'être l'interprète en son nom, me font doublement apprécier la mesure flatteuse que Sa Majesté a prise en élevant le rang de sa représentation en Serbie et la confiance que Sa Majesté place en nous quant à l'exécution de nos obligations internationales.

C'est pourquoi je tiens à mon tour, M. le Ministre, à prier votre Excellence d'assurer votre auguste Souveraine que la Serbie s'était, dès le jour de la conclusion du Traité de Berlin, assignée comme ligne de conduite la stricte et loyale exécution des engagements qui en découlent pour elle. La nouvelle preuve de l'auguste bienveillance que Sa Majesté daigne nous témoigner, à moi et à mon pays, sera pour nous un nouvel encouragement à persister dans cette voie, tout en la suivant en conformité avec nos institutions.

Nous comptons aussi dans l'accomplissement de notre tâche sur le concours bienveillant du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté pour nous aider à écarter les difficultés qui pourraient s'y présenter, comme pour régler des questions qui demandent une solution conforme à l'indépendance de la Serbie.

Ayant déjà pu apprecier, M. le Ministre, les éminentes qualités qui vous distinguent et m'assurer du zèle que votre Excellence veut bien consacrer à tout ce qui peut resserrer les liens d'amitié qui existent si heureusement entre la Grande Bretagne et la Serbie, je me félicite de ce que le choix de Sa Majesté pour la représenter auprès de moi se soit porté sur votre Excellence.

Vous pouvez être assuré, M. le Ministre, que moi et mon Gouvernement nous nous ferons un agréable devoir de vous faciliter la mission qui vous incombe.

No. 373.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May 4, 1879.*

I HAVE further to state, with reference to my preceding despatch, No. 105, of the 29th ultimo, that I reached Belgrade this morning, a few hours after the arrival of Captain Anderson, the British member of the Servian Boundary Commission, and his party, and that on my return journey from Nisch I everywhere met with the same popular demonstrations of respect and gratitude towards Her Majesty's Government which had been made on my way to Nisch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 374.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May 5, 1879.*

I TOOK advantage of the spare time I could dispose of at Nisch to visit Pirot, a considerable manufacturing town in the newly-ceded districts, close to the Bulgarian frontier, and on the high road to Sophia. Notwithstanding the outcry raised in the Bulgarian Assembly at Tirnovo respecting the coercive measures resorted to by the Servian Government, owing to the aversion of the inhabitants of this district and that of Trn to submit to Servian rule, I ascertained that there were no Servian troops stationed anywhere in the neighbourhood of either of these two towns or along the temporary line of demarcation between the two Principalities. No better or more convincing proof could be adduced of the favourable dispositions of the great mass of the population towards Servia than the fact of the Servian Government being thus able to carry on the administration of these districts through two of their officials with a few ill-armed rural policemen ("Pandours") under their orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 375.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 6, 1879.

DURING my recent trip through Servia I was agreeably surprised to find from the local authorities that, without waiting for the final sanction of the Great Skuptchina to the measure relieving the Jews from all civil disabilities, several of their number have already, with the permission of the Government, opened shops in some of the towns and villages of the interior of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 376.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 7, 1879.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 102 of the 24th ultimo, on the recent violation of the Servian frontier by Albanians, some further particulars have reached me from the best possible sources, which I hasten to communicate to your Lordship for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

It seems that, whilst the main body of Albanians, about 1,000 strong, pushed on to Kurshumlje and occupied that town for the short space of time required to sweep it clean of everything worth carrying off, other smaller bands crossed the frontier at different points and committed fearful ravages in all directions. The Turkish Pasha in command at Pristina, on hearing of this untoward event, promptly sent all the troops he could dispose of—six battalions of regulars—to the frontier near Prepolatz. The Albanians had, in the meanwhile, retired from Kurshumlje on the approach of large bodies of Servian troops, and taken up a strong position on the Samskovo Planina. Finding themselves, however, exposed to attacks in front and rear from greatly superior forces, they precipitately fled back towards Prepolatz, where many of them fell into the hands of the Ottoman troops. The Servian forces also followed them up in their retreat and succeeded in killing a certain number of them and in recapturing some cattle.

Since this occurrence the frontier has remained undisturbed, but the panic amongst the Servian border population is such that they are for the most part withdrawing for greater security to the interior of the Principality, the general impression being that the Albanians will shortly renew their incursions, notwithstanding the excellent precaution taken by the Turkish military authorities of replacing by fresh troops of the regular army the various scattered detachments guarding their side of the frontier.

This deplorable condition of things is, in my opinion, likely to last as long as the Servian Government persist in refusing to permit the return to their homes of the Albanian population of Kurshumlje and the neighbourhood. These unfortunate people retired before the advance of the Servian army in the last war, but they have ever since been vainly petitioning the Servian Government to be allowed to make their formal submission to Prince Milan, and to reoccupy the lands belonging to them. Being reduced to a starving condition through their inability to find the means of supporting themselves and their families, they continually prowl about this section of the frontier like a pack of hungry wolves, seizing every favourable occasion to plunder and wreak vengeance on those whom they look upon as their despoilers. Should their cause be eventually taken up by the Albanian nation at large, as there is some reason to fear, the consequences may prove still more serious for Servia.

I have lost no opportunity of earnestly remonstrating, both with His Highness Prince Milan and the principal members of his Government, on the injustice as well as the impolicy of their conduct in this matter, and I am glad to be able to add that my views are fully shared by my colleagues in general, and also by many influential Servians without distinction of party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 377.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 8, 1879.

I AM informed, on good authority, that His Highness Prince Milan intends prolonging for some months his stay at Nisch, where it is expected the great Skuptchina will be held.

For many reasons the continued absence of His Highness from the seat of Government is much to be regretted. It is, at the same time, attended with considerable inconvenience and delay in the transaction of the public business as regards both his official advisers and the foreign representatives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 378.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 9, 1879.

CAPTAIN ANDERSON, of the Royal Engineers, Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner for Servia, left yesterday morning for Nisch, where he and the whole of his party will arrive by the date appointed for the meeting of the Commission, the 10th instant, although the other Commissioners will not be able to reach that place before the 12th or 13th instant.

I am led to believe the Commission will begin by marking out the new Servo-Bulgarian frontier at the joint request of M. Ristitch and the Russian Minister. The approaching evacuation of Bulgaria by the Russian forces makes it very desirable that this question should be brought to a prompt settlement, especially as, in spite of my continued remonstrances, the Servian Government still maintain their hold of an extensive tract of country beyond the limits assigned to this Principality by the Treaty of Berlin.

It appears that an arrangement has been come to with the Porte in order to secure the personal safety of the members of the Commission whilst engaged in tracing the Servo-Albanian frontier, the two Governments having each agreed to furnish an escort of a battalion of infantry and half a squadron of cavalry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 379.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 198. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

WITH respect to my telegram No. 163 of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose copy of the confidential Memorandum given by Prince Labanoff to Carathéodory Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 379.

Prince Labanoff to Carathéodory Pasha.

MES idées sont parfaitement arrêtées. L'Administration Russe ne peut remettre ses pouvoirs qu'à l'Administration formée d'après le Règlement Organique, et entre ces deux Administrations, il ne peut pas y avoir d'interrègne qui laissât le champ libre aux fauteurs de désordres.

Par conséquent, il faut avant tout que le Règlement soit promulgué.

Quant à le mettre à exécution, cette tâche ne pourrait, selon moi, être remplie que par l'Administration Russe sous la surveillance et avec le concours de la Commission Européenne.

Comme il est impossible de déterminer le moment où toutes les parties du mécanisme administratif seraient organisées, il faudrait abandonner à la Commission Européenne de fixer le moment où la nouvelle Administration pourrait remplacer définitivement l'Administration Russe.

No. 380.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1879.*

I HAVE just had an interview with Prince Labanoff, to ask him to procure me one with General Obroutcheff (not Obreskoff), the officer sent to calm the minds of the Roumeliotes, and to induce them to accept the institutions recommended by the Commission.

He was afraid he could not procure me this interview. The vessel bringing the General had broken down in the Black Sea, and a tug had been sent to tow it in. To-morrow there was to be an interview of the Sultan, and the next day the General would go to Philippopolis.

His Excellency repeated to me the proposals he had made to Carathéodory Pasha, as reported in my despatch No. 198 of the 30th April, and dwelt on the necessity of introducing the new régime under Russian auspices.

He said this was the only way to recommend it to the population.

His Excellency was of opinion that the Organic Statute had not been properly represented to the people, and they did not yet know how solid were the guarantees given against a return to the old state of things; this they would learn only by practice.

He did not believe that they cared for annexation to Bulgaria; this was only a cry and a flag adopted to deliver them from Turkish misgovernment. When, by experience, they had learnt the value of the new organization, the cry and the flag, raised for a special purpose, would disappear.

Meanwhile, arrangements should be made for the transition period, so as to prevent an interregnum which would leave room for the promoters of disorders, whose names it was unnecessary to mention.

This was the expression of his own ideas, given without any instructions. He did not care whether they were accepted or not; they were honestly given as the best means he could conceive for carrying out the Treaty. He was sure the public excitement could be assuaged, and he would undertake to do so, if the task were placed entirely in his hands. If his plans were rejected, however, he would wash his hands of the responsibility.

I told his Excellency I wished to postpone discussing the question till the arrival of to-day's messenger, but I saw technical difficulties in the way of his plans. All our endeavours should be directed to introduce the new Statute and to secure for it a fair trial. Since his Excellency had been given the political superintendence, things had gone on better; but I was sorry to say I had no confidence in the present military government of the province. Excitement was being created instead of allayed. Reviews were got up, Bulgarians from all quarters were summoned to take up arms, and money was distributed by the Moscow Committee.

His Excellency laughed at this last statement, and said it was a pure *commérage*.

I replied that the information had come to me unsought; but I could have told him, were it not for betraying a confidence, the names of those who had brought the money and the amount of it. Such proofs were, however, unnecessary. There has been a review of 10,000 men at Tatar-Bazardjik, of 15,000 at Slivno, of 20,000 at Philippopolis. Of the numbers reviewed a large proportion belonged to the gymnastic societies. How could large bodies of men be moved without money? The finances of the province had not contributed to these manœuvres. I did not suppose the Russian Government had paid for the gymnastic societies. Whence, then, could the money have come?

I trusted that General Obroutcheff would be enabled to put a stop to these military displays, which tended more than anything else to keep up an excitement so full of danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 381.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 4, 1879.*

I HAVE now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia, signed by Commissioners on behalf of all the countries signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

The "Règlements," which will form a volume at least equal in length, will, I trust, be ready for transmission by this mail. I hope also before long to be able to submit to your Lordship a Report on these documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 382.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 202.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the "Maritza" of the 17th April and 29th April/11th May giving an account of the festivities held at Philippopolis in honour of the Emperor's birthday.

Your Lordship will perceive that the words "Roumélie Orientale" are placed between inverted commas.

The gymnastic societies are reported in the second of these papers to be armed with Krinka or Martini rifles, and to be in an excellent state of discipline, on which they were complimented by General Stolipine.

This does not give much evidence of the dissolution of these associations, which Baron Jomini informed Lord Dufferin had been decreed by the Emperor.

I also inclose a copy of the "Philippoupolis," giving a report of the same rejoicings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 383.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 6, 1879.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE and myself had the honour of dining last night with His Majesty the Sultan.

His Majesty was good enough to inform me during dinner, through the Grand Vizier, next whom I sat, that he had received my Memorandum, for which he thanked me. His Majesty added that he hoped to be able to make use of some of my suggestions.

Though we remained for some time after dinner with His Majesty the conversation was not of a political character; but before dinner I had the opportunity of a few minutes' conversation with the Grand Vizier. I urged his Highness not to lose any time in applying the Statute to the other European provinces of Turkey. If the population were thus contented, the Porte could at once disband a large portion of the army, and thus realize an immediate economy.

His Highness said that if the Porte had money they could, as it was, disband a great portion of their army at once. They were, however, without means for this purpose. His Highness added, that not only did the Porte intend to apply the Statute to the European provinces, but they proposed adopting it, as far as possible, for other portions of the Empire in Asia. It was a complete work, prepared by the European Powers, and as such would be better than any new system to be elaborated by the Porte itself.

During dinner I also stated to his Highness my belief that the best method for the

Porte to obtain money was to take some immediate step for capitalizing the Vacouf property.

His Highness agreed with me, but added that the Porte was in immediate want of money, and that the capitalization of the Vacouf would take a long time to effect.

I expressed my belief that a law passed immediately might inspire capitalists with sufficient confidence, and give security for small advances, to be increased in proportion to the rapidity with which the provisions of such a law were carried out.

The Sultan has invited Lord Donoughmore and myself to visit him in his garden on Friday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 384.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

YESTERDAY Carathéodory Pasha telegraphed to beg me to call on him at the Porte.

On my arrival his Excellency consulted me as to a proposition he was about to make to Prince Labanoff respecting the method of transition. It was to send the Secretary-General with the Commission to Philippopolis to replace the Russian by native officers, Aleko Pasha to follow himself in some days, when these arrangements had been made.

I informed his Excellency that I thought his plan on the whole a good one, and that, as far as I myself was concerned, I considered myself authorized to join in it.

He asked me to telegraph to your Lordship on the subject, which I did.

I understand that General Stolipine is already making the new appointments himself, naming to posts, heretofore occupied by Russians, Bulgarian functionaries who have been educated in Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 385.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 205. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

IN our conversation yesterday Carathéodory Pasha alluded to the intention of the Porte to extend the Statute to other provinces.

I told his Excellency that I hoped this would be done soon, and reminded him of what he had said to me at Vienna of the necessity of a law of real property. With the introduction of such a law I was convinced money could be obtained by the Porte on moderate terms. At all events, the Sultan could at once raise loans on his own tchiftliks. At present, there being no law of mortgage, commercial and agricultural progress is in many cases almost impossible. The only method by which money can be obtained on real property is by a "vente à réméré." This system dispossesses the proprietor during the duration of the loan, and exposes him to every kind of chicane. I mentioned, as an instance of the evils of this system, some hotels both at Pera and Therapia, which are so much frequented that it is often found difficult to obtain accommodation. The proprietors, though doing a good business, are unable to procure means to enlarge their establishments, without the risk of losing their property through some legal quibble. They are consequently obliged to limit their improvements to the savings of their income. The same impediment opposes itself to the development of agriculture.

His Excellency admitted the truth of my remark, but added that a law had been passed some years ago to enable foreigners to hold land, but very few had availed themselves of its provisions.

I explained that this law was of very little use; it merely allowed foreigners to hold land in their own name instead of that of a rayah or a woman; but in other respects it in nowise changed the nature of the title. The complications of title were endless, and I instanced many cases where purchasers, when endeavouring to build on or cultivate the land they had acquired, found twenty claimants putting forward real or pretended rights, and thus the land was allowed to remain idle. This was the case with large tracts between this and Therapia. I had nearly twenty years ago pointed out the same facts to the late Fuad Pasha with respect to whole districts on the coast of Albania, near the Lake of Butrinto, opposite Corfu, where miles of the richest land only a few days, not to say hours, distance from the most populous and civilized States of Europe were lying absolutely desert. If a law of property could be passed, including a machinery like that of our Encumbered Estates' Courts, purchasers would soon be found where a clean title could be obtained.

His Excellency said he quite agreed with me; but, unfortunately, nothing could be done. The tendency was not to sell, but to acquire land; rather than sell it was allowed to remain idle. He instanced beautiful and valuable building sites at Therapia, large enough for the construction of a whole town, but of which not the least use was made. He went on to say that some years ago an Armenian merchant had built, for 30,000*l.*, a handsome house on the shores of the Bosphorus at Ortakeui. The Sultan, being pleased with the building, had insisted on buying it, which he did, for 80,000*l.* No sooner had the purchase been carried out than his household persuaded him that it was not large enough for the residence of a Sultan. It was accordingly pulled down, and a larger palace was partly built at a further expense of 170,000*l.* When the roof was put on the Sultan declared that the architectural plan had not come out well. The works were stopped. No windows were put in, and the building gradually fell to ruin.

Recently the Sultan had been urged to do something with it; if not to sell it, at any rate to give it away. He consequently made it a present to Fuad Pasha, the Marshal of the Household. The latter, in order to turn it to some account, cleared away the *debris*, and sold them as building material. The removal of this material let in the sea, and the site on which 250,000*l.* had been spent is now under water.

I expressed my wonder at this, as the Sultan, from what he had said the night before, seemed to desire improvements, and had spoken of the means of introducing pisciculture, arboriculture, &c., into the country.

His Excellency replied that this was all very well, but things were not done by talking of them. As to the land question, he feared mooting it. The jealousy of foreigners was so great that any measure facilitating the transfer of land was looked upon as one for dispossessing the population.

I replied that this fear appeared to me chimerical. If Pashas sold their lands they would dispossess themselves, but capitalists were always on the look out for the labour of the country. In undertaking railways and other public works contractors always calculated on this labour, and avoided as much as possible importing foreign workmen. The introduction of foreign capital for the development of agriculture into Turkey would bring in wealth and with it order. His Excellency agreed in what I had said, but with a despairing gesture. He remarked that those having influence in Turkey preferred losing provinces to selling fields.

Many years ago I held many conversations with the late Fuad Pasha on the same subject. He was full of good intentions, and, indeed, passed a law intended to facilitate foreign colonization in Turkey. But the restrictions and reserves it contained were so great that it gave no encouragement to foreigners, and, indeed, it has been from the first a dead letter.

While on this topic, it may interest your Lordship to learn the opinion of Rustem Pasha on similar subjects. He lamented to me the other day the difficulties he had to contend with in the Lebanon in his endeavour to keep up the trees. These were gradually disappearing, notwithstanding the laws and regulations he had made. Only seven of the old secular cedars remain standing, and when he had endeavoured to obtain young trees for a model garden he had been obliged to procure them from Belgium. The number of goats on the mountain is so great, that as soon as the snow begins to melt all the young trees are nibbled away. He cannot prevent the wholesale destruction of the timber, and the result is that the climate is completely changing, while rain, instead of coming gradually, as it does where woods are kept up, accumulates till it pours in torrents, doing great harm to fields and villages.

He gave me also some very interesting details of the causes which had led to the present state of things in Turkey.

In the first place, he spoke of the great extravagance of the Sultans. That of Abdul

Medjid had been caused by the luxury of his harem. Not only was this very numerous, but the way in which money was lavished was almost incredible. The outer and under clothing of each lady was embroidered with diamonds and pearls. On the death of Abdul Medjid it was found he had left debts on this account of from 20,000,000*l.* to 25,000,000*l.* One Armenian alone had claims to the amount of 5,000,000*l.*

Then followed the Sultan Abdul Aziz. His extravagance took other channels. One great expense of a public nature was the purchase of arms, and ammunition, and ironclads. While he did this, however, he entirely neglected providing for transport, and when the war came there were no waggons for the commissariat. He also spent money wildly on building. A palace was half begun, unbuilt, and built again. That of Tchiragan had been built four times, and the present palace, if constructed of solid silver, would not have cost more than what it now represents. The same Sovereign had also a taste for collecting china and other works of art, for which he gave large sums. His architect would go about the town picking up pieces of china for 8*l.* or 10*l.*, which he resold to the palace for 200*l.* or 300*l.* Large life-size figures of animals in bronze were also ordered from Paris at the expense of 50,000 fr. or 60,000 fr. apiece. This collection the present Sultan has recently given to the Grand Vizier. These expenses were all at the charge of the State.

But in the time of these two Sultans there were skilled statesmen, who, while they could not withstand this extravagance, kept politics in their own hands. Such were Reschid, Fuad, and Aali Pashas. On the death of the last named, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha was appointed, who was both servile and ignorant. Rustem Pasha gave a very vivid description of this Grand Vizier's manner of dealing with his Imperial Master. When the Sultan asked for advice, he used to reply: "Advice! Your Majesty wishes the advice of a dog! We are nothing but dogs, and whatever your Majesty thinks is right." Mahmoud Nedim, who was both ignorant and corrupt, easily fell under the influence of General Ignatieff, and thus began the great break-up. The present Sultan, Rustem Pasha assures me, is not extravagant, and is desirous of doing right. He is unfortunately easily influenced. Haireddin Pasha he believes is independent and honest, but has to contend against a mass of intrigues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 386.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 206.)
Constantinople, May 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Protocols Nos. 53, 62, and 63.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 386.

Protocole No. 53.—Séance du $\frac{9}{21}$ *Mars*, 1879 (24 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne, à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. le BARON DE RING.

Etaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Baron de Ring et *le Colonel Schepelew* déposent sur le bureau les projets des Chapitres XII et XIII: "Milice Locale et Gendarmerie," qu'ils ont élaborés avec l'assistance de Général Sir Collingwood Dickson et du Capitaine de Toroy, Attachés Militaires de la Grande Bretagne et de France à Constantinople.

Lord Donoughmore communique à la Commission la lettre suivante adressée par le Général Stolipine au Comité des Finances :—

"*Philippopoli, le* 28 *Février*, 1879.

"Au Comité des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

"J'ai l'honneur de communiquer au Comité des Finances à titre de renseignements les données suivantes relatives à la situation actuelle des Caisses Agricoles dans le Gouvernement de Philippopoli, lesquelles m'ont été présentées par le Gouverneur.

"1. La Caisse Agricole de Haskeui a été ouverte le 2 Novembre, 1878, et inscrite dans la première classe. Son capital est actuellement de 69,084 piastres en caisse.

"2. La Caisse Agricole de Tchirpan a été ouverte le 1er Octobre, 1878.

"D'après le compte présenté par le Caissier, le capital consistait en—

"(1.) 1,055 lettres de change représentant, les intérêts y compris jusqu'à l'année 1877, une somme de 1,875,103 piastres 12 paras.

"(2.) En papier-monnaie Turc, 12,478 piastres.

"(3.) En papier-timbré Turc, 125 piastres 20 paras.

"(4.) En sommes non rentrées représentant les dus pour avances directes effectuées sans documents jusqu'en 1877, soit 44,557 piastres 9 paras.

"Au total, 1,932,264 piastres 1 para.

"Jusqu'au 20 Janvier de l'année courante, sur la somme sus-indiquée représentant le total des créances de la Caisse Agricole il est rentré, y compris les intérêts pour l'année 1877, 128,958 piastres 20 paras. Les avances faites aux agriculteurs et les frais d'administration et de service de la Caisse se montent à 71,252 piastres. Il reste un reliquat de 57,706 piastres 20 paras.

"3. La Caisse Agricole de Kézanlik n'ayant pas conservé les documents qui établissaient la situation financière sous le Gouvernement Turc, n'a pas pu être ouverte. Son capital consistait en 900,000 piastres, dont la plus grande partie avait été distribuées en avances faites aux habitants Turcs aujourd'hui pour la plupart

absents. Jusqu'à présent, M. Pachalovitch, Directeur de la Caisse, n'a pu retrouver chez les débiteurs Bulgares qu'une somme de 65,000 piastres, qui a été convertie en nouvelles lettres de change.

"Le Lieutenant-Général,
(Signé) "STOLIPINE."

Le Commissaire Adjoint de la Grande Bretagne prie la Commission de s'occuper d'urgence de cette question et de prendre telles mesures qu'elle jugera nécessaires pour que l'Administration Financière puisse prendre possession des Caisses Agricoles.

La Commission décide qu'elle examinera cette question dans une séance ultérieure, lorsqu'elle disposera de tous les renseignements voulus à ce sujet.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur les règlements annexés au Chapitre VII présenté par M. Vernoni.

Après un échange d'idées entre tous les Commissaires, ces règlements sont adoptés dans la forme suivante:—

[See "Statut Organique," as presented to Parliament.]

L'ordre du jour appelle la motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff au sujet de l'ancien Chef de l'Arrondissement de Tatar-Bazardjik et la motion du même Commissaire, tendant à inviter le Président de la Commission à demander au Gouverneur-Général quelles mesures ont été prises par les autorités locales en vue de punir les personnes coupables d'actes de violence contre les agents de l'Administration Financière.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne propose à la Commission d'ajourner le débat sur ces deux motions jusqu'au retour du Gouverneur-Général, qui se trouve actuellement à Slivno.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dit qu'il attendra également le retour du Général Stolipine pour aviser à ce qu'il devra faire au sujet de la condamnation du Musulman dont il a parlé à la cinquante et unième séance. Cette affaire l'intéresse personnellement, car c'est à la suite d'une pétition communiquée par lui au Gouverneur-Général, en conformité avec l'arrangement intervenu entre le Marquis de Salisbury et le Comte Schouvaloff, que le Musulman en question a été poursuivi.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 12 Mars:

Le débat sur les Chapitres XII et XIII: "Gendarmerie et Milice Locale."

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) RING.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 386.

Protocole No. 62.—Séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Avril, 1879 (24 *Rébi-ul-Akhir*, 1296), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï.*

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 61, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha déclare que la Sublime Porte n'a pas encore pris de décision au sujet des vakoufs, mais qu'il espère pouvoir faire connaître à la Commission, dans la prochaine séance, l'opinion du Gouvernement Impérial à ce sujet. Il espère que ce retard n'arrêtera pas la marche des travaux de la Commission, le Chapitre XIV étant l'avant-dernier à réviser.

M. de Kallay et *le Prince Tzeretelew* prient leurs collègues de Turquie de hâter la décision de la Porte.

M. de Coutouly dit que M. Schmidt, qui est venu passer quelques jours à Constantinople, désirerait avant de retourner à Philippopoli soumettre à l'approbation de la Commission certaines dépenses qu'il s'est cru autorisé à effectuer. Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances prie la Commission de vouloir bien faire appeler le Directeur-Général pour lui demander toutes les explications dont elle pourrait avoir besoin.

La Commission décide d'appeler dans son sein le Directeur-Général des Finances.

M. Schmidt est introduit et fait la communication suivante:

"En vertu des pouvoirs dont la Commission Européenne m'avait investi dans sa dernière séance à Philippopoli, je me suis cru autorisé à faire face à plusieurs demandes de crédit que les autorités civiles Russes m'ont transmises depuis le départ du Comité des Finances. La plus grande partie de ces dépenses, qui se rapportent à l'équipement de la gendarmerie, avaient été en principe approuvées par la Commission, qui après le vote du budget a autorisé la Direction des Finances à payer les nouveaux uniformes des gendarmes de Philippopoli et de Slivno. Je vais avoir l'honneur de vous donner lecture du relevé de toutes les dépenses dont j'ai ordonné le règlement et qui s'élèvent à 82,155 piastres:

ÉTAT.

	Piastres.
Gendarmerie à Philippopoli, 183 kalpaks (911 fr. 5 c.)	3,872
Gendarmerie à Bazardjik, 55 uniformes, à 5 roubles l'un (275 roubles)	4,675
Gendarmerie à Philippopoli (arrondissement), 133 uniformes, à 5½ roubles l'un (698·25 roubles)	11,870
Gendarmerie à Bourgas, uniformes (150 roubles)	2,550
Gendarmerie à Yamboli, uniformes	2,505
Gendarmerie à Eski-Zagra, équipement	4,250
Gendarmerie à Philippopoli, indemnité pour effets brûlés dans un incendie (50 roubles)	850
Prisons à Philippopoli, entretien des détenus à 284,87½ roubles	4,843
Prisons à Aïdos, nourriture	738
Crédit pour prisons (600 roubles)	10,200
Prisons à Yeni-Zagra, nourriture (19,80 roubles)	337
Prisons à Yeni-Zagra, nourriture	1,521
Ecole à Philippopoli, Professeur de Gymnastique (900 piastres par mois)	900
Contributions Indirectes à Philippopoli, nouveaux employés	4,593
Tribunal de 1re Instance à Philippopoli, divers frais supplémentaires (128½ roubles)	2,185
Etat supplémentaire à partir du 1er Mars	2,400
Arrondissement de Haskeui, au vaccinateur à partir du 1er Avril	1,625
Gouverneur de Slivno, état supplémentaire à partir du 1er Janvier	7,800
Gouverneur de Philippopoli, arriéré de traitement	364
Ecole à Slivno, traitement, &c., pour Mars (2,554 fr., 15 pour cent)	10,770
A Slivno, Caisse d'Arrondissement (augmentation à partir du 1er Mars)	600
A Slivno, augmentation Contributions Indirectes à partir du 1er Mars	1,100
A Bourgas, Contributions Indirectes (frais au 31 Décembre)	1,627
	82,115

"Le nouvel arrondissement de Hermanli," continue M. Schmidt, "vient d'être formé et la Commission a déjà depuis quelque temps voté les frais nécessaires au fonctionnement des services administratifs de cet arrondissement, mais M. le Gouverneur ne m'ayant communiqué que la liste d'un petit nombre d'employés de ce district, je n'ai autorisé jusqu'à présent qu'une dépense de 0,500 piastres par mois.

"Outre les 2,000 roubles qui ont été pris sur les sommes conditionnelles, il a été prélevé, pour avance aux habitants de Kritschma, une somme de 2,000 roubles; une troisième somme de 2,000 roubles également a été perçue sur les mêmes fonds pour les habitants de Vodena.

"En vous priant de vouloir bien approuver ces différentes dépenses, je me vois obligé, Messieurs, de vous demander encore un nouveau crédit de 50,000 piastres pour faire face aux nouveaux frais qui pourraient se présenter."

Après un court échange d'idées, la Commission donne à M. Schmidt l'approbation sollicitée. Elle accorde en outre au Directeur-Général les 50,000 piastres demandées par lui, et décide que cette somme devra être prise sur les 100,000 piastres qui ont été allouées mensuellement, lors de la confection du budget, pour les dépenses non prévues.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff demande au Directeur-Général des Finances si la Caisse de Slivno lui a été envoyée à Philippopoli, selon les promesses de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général.

M. Schmidt dit qu'après son retour de la tournée qu'il a faite avec M. de Coutouly, il avait écrit au Caissier de Slivno pour lui donner l'ordre d'expédier le surplus de cette Caisse à Philippopoli, et qu'en même temps il avait adressé une lettre au Gouverneur-Général en le priant de donner aux autorités de Slivno les ordres nécessaires pour garantir la sécurité de cette expédition. Le Caissier de Slivno n'a pas répondu.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff s'étonne que les autorités Russes demandent à la Direction des Finances des crédits sur une Caisse qui jusqu'à ce jour n'a pas été remise.

Le Prince Tseretelew fait remarquer au Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne que la Caisse continue à fonctionner à Slivno sous les ordres du Caissier dépendant de M. Schmidt.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff répond que M. Schmidt en s'adressant aux autorités Russes, les a en même temps prévenues que la responsabilité des retards mis à l'envoi de la Caisse retomberait sur elles et sur le Caissier.

M. de Kallay pense qu'il faudrait destituer le Caissier de Slivno, qui n'a pas obéi aux ordres du Directeur-Général des Finances.

M. Schmidt fait observer que dans sa lettre il n'avait pas précisé le jour auquel l'expédition devrait avoir lieu; il est d'avis qu'il serait utile, avant de prendre la mesure suggérée par M. de Kallay, d'envoyer de nouveaux ordres plus précis au Caissier de Slivno, en exigeant l'expédition de la Caisse dans un délai fixé.

La Commission approuve.

M. Schmidt donne lecture de la communication suivante qui lui a été faite par le Gouverneur de Philippopoli:

"*Gouverneur de Philippopoli, le 29 Mars*, 1879.

"Au Directeur des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale,

"En vous transmettant ci-joint le Rapport du Chef de l'Arrondissement de Haskeui du 24 Mars, je vous prie, Monsieur, de donner votre décision à ce sujet.

"De ma part je croirais indispensable de libérer pour cette année, tous les fugitifs, sans distinction de nationalité, du paiement, non-seulement du "Beglik," mais en général de tous les autres impôts.

"Cette mesure est aussi dans l'intérêt de la Caisse même, car, par suite de la condition malheureuse et ruinée de la plus grande part d'eux, quand seront-ils en état de payer les impôts demandés d'eux.

"La libération des impôts leur permettra plus vite et mieux de mettre en ordre leurs affaires, et avec le temps indemnisera la Caisse de sa perte temporaire.

"Je vous prie de me faire savoir votre décision, afin que je la transmette aux solliciteurs dans les provinces.

"Le Gouverneur,
(Signé) "Général Major Baron HUBSCH-GROSSTHAL.
"Le Chef de Chancellerie,
"ILINSKI."

"*Rapport.*

("Traduction.) "*Chef de l'Arrondissement de Haskeui, le 24 Mars*, 1879.

"A M. le Gouverneur-Général de Philippopoli.

"Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire savoir s'il faut percevoir l'impôt 'Beglik' des Bulgares fugitifs, vu qu'ils se trouvent dans une situation de fugitifs.

"Le Chef de l'Arrondissement,
(Signé) "ZATKALISKY, *Capitaine en Second*."

M. Schmidt ajoute qu'il n'a pas cru devoir adhérer à cette demande sans avoir consulté la Commission.

Sur l'observation de quelques Commissaires qu'une mesure de cette nature pourrait encourager l'émigration en Roumélie Orientale, et vu les difficultés qu'il y aurait à faire une distinction entre ceux de ces fugitifs qui ne pourraient payer cet impôt et ceux qui sont en état de le faire, la Commission décide de ne pas réclamer ce droit pour le moment, en laissant aux futures autorités provinciales le soin de prendre une décision à ce sujet.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit qu'avant de clôturer les débats sur les finances, il demande à rappeler à la Commission le passage suivant du Rapport de M. de Coutouly sur les événements de Slivno:—

"En présence de ces déclarations officielles, M. Schmidt, après m'avoir consulté, répondit à M. le Gouverneur-Général, d'accord avec moi, qu'il répugnerait de faire une visite nocturne et furtive au bureau de la Caisse; que d'ailleurs cette visite, nécessairement trop courte, n'offrirait aucun avantage pratique, parce qu'il n'aurait pas le temps de se livrer à une inspection sérieuse; qu'il se contenterait, pour cette raison, d'inspecter les livres à Philippopoli, M. le Gouverneur-Général répondant du solde en caisse; qu'il s'entretiendrait volontiers avec les fonctionnaires des Finances pour régler avec eux quelques affaires pendantes; que, cela fait, il repartirait pour Philippopoli à l'heure indiquée; et enfin que, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, il renonçait à toute tournée d'inspection dans le Département de Slivno.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général lui offrit alors de faire venir prochainement à Philippopoli le solde de la Caisse de Slivno, et M. Schmidt accepta son offre."

D'après le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, il résulte de ce passage que le Gouverneur-Général s'était porté fort de faire venir à Philippopoli la Caisse de Slivno, en échange de quelques concessions faites par M. Schmidt.

M. de Coutouly craint que Sir Henry Drummond Wolff n'ait pas parfaitement compris le sens du passage qui vient d'être lu:—"C'est du reste ma faute," ajoute le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances. "J'aurais dû expliquer davantage ce que M. le

Gouverneur-Général a en réalité offert. Il ne nous a pas dit, et il ne pouvait pas nous dire, qu'il donnerait lui-même au Caissier de Slivno l'ordre d'envoyer à Philippopoli le solde en Caisse, parce que le Caissier n'a ordres à recevoir que du Directeur-Général des Finances. Il nous a simplement dit, si M. Schmidt ordonnait à ce Caissier d'envoyer le solde au chef-lieu de la province, il se chargerait lui d'assurer le transfert des espèces. Je regrette d'avoir employé une tournure de phrase qui pouvait donner lieu à une erreur d'interprétation."

Le Prince Tzeretelew signale à la Commission deux questions financières sur lesquelles il se propose de provoquer un vote à la séance prochaine :—

1. Le budget accepté à la séance du $\frac{1-3}{13}$ Janvier prendra fin le $\frac{30 \text{ Avril}}{12 \text{ Mai}}$, et le supplément de traitement des officiers Russes employés dans l'Administration Civile de la Roumélie Orientale ne doit être payé que jusqu'au $\frac{21 \text{ Avril}}{3 \text{ Mai}}$. Or, la remise des services à l'Administration Ottomane ne pouvant guère être faite jusqu'à cette date, la Commission trouvera peut-être opportun, dans l'intérêt des affaires, de prolonger les allocations votées jusqu'au jour de la remise effective.

2. Il est avantageux pour le maintien de l'ordre d'engager, le plus tôt que faire se pourra, dans la milice locale des officiers étrangers susceptibles d'y être maintenus par l'autorité Ottomane. Mais il faudrait, pour que cet engagement pût avoir lieu, que la Commission votât provisoirement un crédit pour assurer les traitements des officiers jusqu'au jour où ils seront engagés régulièrement dans les formes prévues par le Statut.

A la suite d'un court échange d'idées, il demeure entendu que le Président préviendra la Commission du jour de la prochaine séance.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance l'examen des questions soulevées par le Prince Tzeretelew.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 386.

Protocole No. 63.—Séance du $\frac{9}{21}$ Avril, 1879 (30 Rébi-ul-Akhir, 1296), au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï.

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le protocole de la séance précédente, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Abro Effendi prend la parole en ces termes :

"Messieurs,

"Nous venons vous communiquer aujourd'hui les propositions de la Sublime Porte au sujet du Chapitre XIV. Dans son désir de hâter la clôture de nos travaux, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a voulu apporter qu'un très-petit nombre de modifications aux Articles votés par la majorité des Commissaires. Ces modifications ne changeant en rien l'esprit du texte, nous espérons que vous voudrez bien y adhérer.

"J'ai l'honneur de vous en donner lecture :

"La section (*a*) de l'Article 3 doit être ainsi modifiée :

Le revenu des immeubles de rapport qui sont gérés directement ou donnés à bail pour un laps de temps déterminé par des communautés religieuses Musulmanes ou non-Musulmanes, ou par des établissements religieux, scolaires, ou de charité Musulmans, est saisissable pour dettes judiciairement constatées des dits établissements ou communautés.

"Pour la sûreté de leurs créances, les créanciers peuvent poursuivre devant les Tribunaux de département la mise sous séquestre de ces immeubles."

"La section (*b*) de l'Article 3 doit être supprimé et remplacé par le paragraphe suivant :

"'(*b*) Les immeubles ci-dessus mentionnés et ceux affectés à l'habitation des ministres et desservants des différents cultes reconnus ne peuvent être ni aliénés, ni hypothéqués.'"

"Messieurs, la libération des vakoufs appartenant aux communautés et aux établissements religieux non-Musulmans doit être, suivant la Sublime Porte, proclamé dans les mêmes Articles que la libération des vakoufs appartenant aux communautés et aux établissements religieux Musulmans; et par conséquent partout où, dans le projet, se trouve l'adjectif "Musulman" on y ajouterait le mot "non-Musulman." L'Article 4 du Projet relatif à la libération des vakoufs appartenant aux communautés et aux établissements religieux non-Musulmans resterait ainsi sans objet et devrait être supprimé.

"En ce qui concerne la remise des lettres de gage aux communautés non-Musulmanes pour la libération des vakoufs leur appartenant, elle doit être réglée dans

les mêmes dispositions qui s'occupent de cette matière en ce qui concerne les vakoufs Musulmans.

Après une discussion approfondie, le Chapitre XIV est adopté dans la forme suivante :

CHAPITRE XIV.—*Organisation de la Propriété Foncière.*

[See "Statut Organique," as printed for Parliament.]

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion des questions soulevées par le Prince Tzeretelew et se rapportant : la première à la prolongation du traitement des officiers Russes employés dans l'Administration Civile de la Roumélie Orientale, et la seconde aux mesures financières à prendre pour assurer un traitement aux officiers étrangers engagés dans la milice de la Roumélie Orientale et pour ceux qui voudraient y entrer éventuellement.

Pour ce qui concerne la première de ces propositions, la Commission décide de prolonger jusqu'à nouvel ordre le paiement des traitements alloués aux officiers Russes employés dans l'Administration Civile de la province.

Pour ce qui est de la seconde proposition du Prince Tzeretelew, *M. de Kallay* pense que, telle qu'elle a été formulée par son auteur, elle n'est pas de la compétence de la Commission :—

"La décision qu'on nous propose de prendre," dit le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, "ne porte pas seulement sur des questions d'ordre financier ; car en allouant aux officiers étrangers servant dans la milice des traitements qui jusqu'ici n'ont pas été payés par la Commission, les Commissaires auraient l'air de transférer, tacitement au moins, le droit de nommer ou de maintenir ces mêmes officiers, de l'autorité compétente, c'est-à-dire de Sa Majesté le Sultan ou du Gouverneur-Général qui le représente, à une autorité qui n'est prévue ni explicitement, ni implicitement par le Traité de Berlin. D'après l'Article XV de ce Traité, la nomination des officiers appartient à Sa Majesté le Sultan. Le Statut nouvellement élaboré maintient ce droit, en stipulant que les officiers subalternes seront nommés par le Gouverneur-Général en vertu d'une délégation permanente de Sa Majesté Impériale. La Commission outrepasserait donc, suivant moi, ses attributions, si elle voulait résoudre des questions qui dépendent exclusivement de la Sublime Porte. Ne serait-il pas à craindre d'ailleurs que les officiers nouvellement nommés ne convinssent pas au Gouverneur-Général, et ne serait-il pas en conséquence sage d'attendre l'arrivée d'Aleko Pacha ?"

Le Prince Tzeretelew répond qu'il ne croit pas que sa proposition soit, comme le juge M. de Kallay, contraire au Statut et au Traité de Berlin, puisqu'elle ne tend qu'à demander le vote de certains crédits provisoires. La Commission devant conserver la gestion des finances Roumélioles jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation, il pense qu'elle peut, sans sortir de sa compétence, affecter tel ou tel crédit à un but qui paraît utile. Le Commissaire de Russie déclare qu'au point de vue des intérêts particuliers de son Gouvernement il n'attache pas d'importance à sa proposition, et que celle-ci n'a simplement en vue que d'assurer la tranquillité du pays après l'évacuation, et pendant l'époque de transition. Le Prince ajoute qu'il serait dans l'intérêt de la Porte comme de la Commission que le Gouverneur-Général trouvât à son arrivée dans le pays une force capable de maintenir l'ordre. Il croit que la question de l'engagement définitif des officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie ne serait nullement préjugée par le fait que la Commission voterait leur traitement pour la période de transition.

M. de Kallay réplique qu'il sera bien difficile au futur Gouverneur-Général de renvoyer des officiers qui seront connus de leurs soldats et auxquels ces derniers auront été habitués à obéir : une telle mesure pourrait avoir pour suite des conflits regrettables.

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit que l'époque de l'évacuation étant très-proche, la Commission serait en droit d'aviser aux moyens de pourvoir au maintien de l'ordre dans la province en votant certains crédits. Elle ne sortirait pas de son rôle en prenant des mesures pour sauvegarder un intérêt urgent de la province, qui souffrirait énormément si, à un moment donné, le pays venait à se trouver sans aucune force capable d'y maintenir l'ordre.

M. de Contenly fait remarquer que jusqu'ici il n'y a en Roumélie Orientale que deux officiers dont la nomination ait été faite conformément au Traité de Berlin, mais que ces officiers, quoique nommés par Sa Majesté le Sultan, ne peuvent pas toucher les traitements de leurs postes parce que, d'un côté, la Commission n'a pas autorisé la Direction Générale des Finances à leur payer leurs émoluments et que, d'un autre côté, leur Firman de nomination n'a précisé ni leurs emplois, ni leurs grades.

M. de Ring pense que si des mesures transitoires ne sont pas prises, et si le maintien de l'ordre n'est pas garanti pour l'époque de transition, la Commission devra forcément s'attendre à une prolongation du régime Russe, vu que l'on ne pourrait plus laisser la province sans autorités, sans troupes, et abandonnée à elle-même.

M. Vernoni se rallie complétement à l'avis du Baron de Ring.

M. de Kallay dit qu'il n'a aucune objection à ce que la Commission s'occupe des mesures transitoires à prendre. Quand naguère cette question a été soulevée, il a le premier demandé à ce qu'elle fût sérieusement mise à l'étude. Il propose encore aujourd'hui à ses collègues de vouloir bien aviser aux moyens de garantir l'ordre après l'évacuation. Ses objections au Prince Tzeretelew, poursuit-il, portaient sur le fait qu'il ne saurait reconnaître après l'évacuation aucune autorité, ni militaire ni civile, qui n'émanerait pas du Sultan. Il pense d'ailleurs que les mesures à prendre devraient être discutées entre les Gouvernements et que la Commission, avant d'émettre son avis, devrait connaître l'opinion de la Sublime Porte. Il déclare finalement que si le Gouvernement Ottoman décide la question des officiers étrangers engagés dans la milice Rouméliote dans le sens de la proposition du Prince Tzeretelew, il est prêt, pour sa part, à voter les traitements nécessaires.

Le Prince Tzeretelew tient à constater de recheef que sa proposition n'a rien de contraire au Traité de Berlin ; "La Commission étant," dit-il, "saisie de la gestion des finances jusqu'à l'achèvement de l'organisation, elle peut prolonger et compléter le budget qu'elle a voté. En admettant que tous les officiers continueront à être payés jusqu'à nouvel ordre, elle retiendrait au service de la milice beaucoup d'officiers, qui seraient forcés de se retirer si l'on suspendait leur solde."

Le Délégué de Russie est heureux du reste de voir que les Commissaires de France et d'Italie se rallient à son opinion et expriment les mêmes appréhensions que lui sur le danger qui pourrait menacer la province dans le cas où aucune autorité ne serait constituée au moment de l'évacuation. Pour sa part, il tient à constater qu'il a fait son possible pour provoquer une mesure tendant à maintenir la cohésion dans la milice et la gendarmerie, et il déclare que la responsabilité des suites qu'aurait la dissolution de ses institutions retombera sur ceux qui font échouer sa proposition.

M. de Kallay croit que la question a été complétement renversée par le Prince Tzeretelew. Il n'a pas, quant à lui, fait d'objection à ce que les officiers Russes au service de l'Administration Russe continuent à être payés ; il a seulement fait observer que la Commission était incompétente pour autoriser l'Administration actuelle à engager des officiers dans la milice, la nomination de ces officiers étant un droit réservé par le Traité de Berlin à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

M. Vernoni, tout en reconnaissant que la proposition faisant l'objet du débat ne peut pas être considérée comme comprise dans le mandat de la Commission, croit néanmoins que, puisqu'elle a été faite, il serait nécessaire de prier les Délégués Ottomans d'en informer immédiatement la Sublime Porte.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff se rallie à l'opinion de son collègue d'Italie. Comme la mesure proposée par le Prince Tzeretelew n'est que provisoire, n'engage en rien l'avenir, et a pour but le maintien de l'ordre, il pense que la Porte pourrait tout de suite s'occuper des deux officiers qui ont déjà été nommés, leur assigner un rang défini et régulariser leur position, de telle sorte qu'ils puissent s'entendre avec l'Administration actuelle de la Roumélie Orientale. Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne n'a, du reste, aucune objection à ce que le paiement des officiers servant provisoirement dans la milice soit continué comme celui des employés civils.

M. de Ring partage complétement la manière de voir de ses collègues de la Grande Bretagne et d'Italie. Il croit que la Porte pourrait charger des personnes investies de sa confiance de s'entendre avec les autorités actuelles de la Roumélie pour le maintien de certains officiers ; "Il est évident," ajoute le Commissaire de France, "que si les mesures nécessaires ne sont pas prises à temps, l'ordre public sera en danger."

Le Prince Tzeretelew est heureux de voir Sir Henry Drummond Wolff se rallier à son opinion. Il prie ses collègues de Turquie de lui dire s'ils ne sont pas disposés de leur côté à faire de même. Il regrette d'ailleurs que la Commission ne se soit pas prononcée immédiatement ; car il n'attend pas de résultat rapide des démarches que les Délégués Ottomans feront auprès de la Sublime Porte, surtout après l'expérience qui a été déjà faite à propos de la non exécution de l'Article XXIII. Il termine en priant ses collègues de Turquie de recueillir des renseignements sur cette dernière question qui leur a été adressée à la 59ᵐᵉ séance par plusieurs Commissaires.

Abro Effendi répond que les Délégués de Turquie croient que la question des

mesures à prendre après l'évacuation regarde uniquement le Gouvernement Ottoman, mais que son Excellence Assim Pacha et lui, porteront à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte l'échange d'idées qui vient d'avoir lieu.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie donne ensuite lecture de la déclaration suivante au nom de la Sublime Porte :—

"Les Commissaires Ottomans déclarent que la dévolution à la province de la Roumélie Orientale des forêts, mines, et généralement de tous les immeubles appartenant à l'Etat dans la dite province, suivant l'Article 15 du Chapitre I du Règlement Organique est faite sous la réserve la plus expresse de tous les droits antérieurement acquis à des tiers sur les dits immeubles, forêts, et mines. Ils déclarent que cette réserve s'applique notamment au droit d'exploitation de la forêt de Bellova et autres forêts situées dans la même circonscription, qui ont été concédées par Convention du 18 Mai, 1872, pour une durée de trente-cinq années, à M. le Baron de Hirsch, concessionnaire des chemins de fer de la Turquie d'Europe, et qui font partie intégrante de la dite concession.

Le Baron de Ring dit que la Commission n'a pas eu un seul instant la pensée de donner à la province ce qui au moment de la confection du Statut n'appartenait plus à la Sublime Porte. Les forêts de Bellova ayant été concédées à M. de Hirsch pour un temps de ——, le contrat passé avec cet entrepreneur garde nécessairement son plein effet vis-à-vis de la province ; mais il ne peut pas être opposé aux tiers intéressés qui se prétendent propriétaires du fonds.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et *de la Grande Bretagne* se rallient à l'opinion de leur collègue de France.

Le Prince Tzeretelew admet parfaitement comme ses collègues, que les droits des tiers ne peuvent être lésés par le Statut, mais il n'a pas d'opinion à émettre sur l'affaire spéciale du Baron Hirsch, affaire qu'il ne connaît absolument pas.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe la prochaine séance au 26 Avril.

La séance est levée à 7 heures et quart.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

No. 387.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 76. Political.)

Tirnovo, May 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD this evening the honour to re-telegraph to your Lordship a despatch received by the Russian Commissary from M. Giers at St. Petersburgh to the effect that the Russian Ambassador at Berlin had been instructed to give His Highness Prince Alexander Battenberg news of his election to the Bulgarian Principality, and to inquire of him at what place he would desire to receive the Bulgarian deputation about to be sent to him on the occasion. His answer would, the telegram continued, be communicated when known.

I have now the honour to add that the deputation will, it is expected, consist of six members of the Electoral Assembly, but their names have not been made public as yet. They will not set out from Tirnovo till the return of the Russian Commissary from Livadia to that place, probably eight or nine days hence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 388.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 78. Political.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that your Lordship's cyphered telegram, instructing me to inform the Government to which I was accredited of the approval given by Her Majesty's Government of the recent election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, was put in my hands at the very moment of my leaving Tirnovo, on my way for this place, according to your Lordship's gracious permission, previously granted. Owing to this circumstance I was compelled to defer my answer till my arrival at Gabrovo, the first halt on my journey, the same evening, when I sent it, in cypher, to the following purport :—

That I had already had the honour of informing your Lordship, by a telegram *en clair*, of Prince Battenberg's election, within a few minutes of its publication two days before. And that, not being quite certain, under the actual administrative circumstances of the Principality, what were the precise limits to be given to the words "Government" and "accredited," I should communicate the approbation in question to the two Imperial Commissaries, the Ottoman, as representative of the Suzerain Power, and the Russian, as provisional administrator of the vassal rule.

This I at once did by telegraph, and the Ottoman Commissary, being yet at Tirnovo, will have received his information the same night. But as the Russian Commissary was already on his way to Livadia, I was obliged, in order to make sure that the message should reach him without delay, to telegraph the message to the Russian Diplomatic Agent, M. Davidoff, who was, I knew, still at Tirnovo, requesting him to transmit it to the Russian Commissary himself without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 389.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 79. Political.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship, as a matter of possible interest, the names of the individuals who form the Bulgarian deputation selected to wait on Prince Alexander of Battenberg at Darmstadt, on the occasion of his election to the Bulgarian Principality.

They are as follows :—

1. Simeon, Bishop of Preshaf in Bulgaria ; a sensible and, thus far, a moderate man.

2. Karakanowski, a doctor ; his professional studies were made in Russia.

3. Burmoff, a Bulgarian, who had for some time held office in East Roumelia under the Russian administration. Both this individual and the one immediately preceding are looked on as negative rather than positive quantities.

4. Zano-Getcho, a wealthy peasant, well spoken of for shrewdness and discretion.

5. Stoiloff, an East Roumelian by birth, holding judicial office in Bulgaria ; a man of some promise.

6. Hajji Muezzin, a Mahometan from the neighbourhood of Shumla. Six in all.

These six will receive their final instructions from the Russian Commissary when passing through Tirnovo on his way from Livadia to Sophia, probably on Friday next, after which they will set out for Darmstadt. None of them—the Bishop, who is said to be consumptive, and Stoiloff, who is young, perhaps excepted—are men possessed of any personal influence, or likely to be so at a future time ; a fact, on the whole, of favourable significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 390.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 80. Political.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in consequence of frequent rumours which had reached me about fortifications said to be in process of erection by the Russians or Bulgarians along the Shipka Pass, I determined to take my route from Tirnovo hither by the locality in question.

Arriving at Gabrovo on the evening of the 4th instant, I there took an especial guide, a native of the place, and rode leisurely on horseback across the entire Pass, noting every position, alike those which had been occupied by the combatants during the late war, and those which might have been but had not been made use of.

Remains of field-works, of batteries, of fascine breast-works, of earth entrenchments, of soldiers' quarters and kitchens still strewn with fragments of shells, and a few bones among, there were in plenty; but the winter storms had already so broken down the constructions as to render them, in their actual condition, utterly useless for service without repairs, of which, as also of any new constructions, or even of the tracings for such, there was no sign anywhere.

Two new objects alone appeared; one a marble obelisk, about 14 feet in height, which some workmen from Adrianople were putting up on a square marble base, inscribed with the names of several officers, and a summary list of privates who had fallen in fight near the spot. The monument was Russian, and so were those whom it commemorated.

The other consisted of a cross and a small shallow trench around it, indicating the future position of a mortuary chapel in memory of the Bulgarians who had there fallen in fight. The cross and the chapel, or rather its slight foundations, were Bulgarian.

Perhaps these two constructions, neither of which had however, except from a sentimental point of view, any military significance, may have given occasion to the rumours alluded to at the beginning of this despatch. There are no others of any kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 391.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 367.) *Therapia, May 2, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 338 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of the answer which I have made to it, relating to the proceedings of the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier under the Treaty of Berlin.

I had been pressing his Excellency to send an answer to my note of the 22nd ultimo, in order that the proceedings of the Commission might not be delayed, and his Excellency telegraphed yesterday to me to ask me to instruct Major Clarke to be present at the meeting which was to take place that day. The telegram only reached me at 5 P.M., too late for action, and I received the note this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 391.

Caratheodory Pasha to Mr. Malet.

Sublime Porte, le 1er Mai, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI reçu et communiqué au Ministère de la Guerre la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 22 Avril, relativement à la délimitation de la frontière Turco-Russe en Asie.

Il résulte de la réponse de son Excellence Ghazi Osman Pacha que le tracé effectué jusqu'à présent aboutit à Karaoughan, et qu'aucun travail au delà de ce point n'a été encore entrepris. Les Commissaires de Turquie et de Russie ne pouvaient, du reste, commencer cette démarcation en l'absence du Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique. Ainsi que je viens de vous l'annoncer, la Commission chargée de la délimitation de cette partie de la frontière Asiatique ayant tenu sa première séance aujourd'hui même, j'aime à espérer que le Major Clarke a bien voulu y assister.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) A. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 391.

Mr. Malet to Caratheodory Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, May 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's note of yesterday's date relating to the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier under the Treaty of Berlin, in which you conclude by saying that you hope that Major Clarke, Her Majesty's Commissioner, was present at the sitting which was to take place yesterday.

I regret to inform your Excellency that it was not possible for me to inform Major Clarke in time, as I only received your Excellency's telegram on the subject yesterday at 5 o'clock P.M., while the note itself reached me this morning.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 392.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 370.) *Therapia, May 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Armenian Patriarch thanking me for my efforts on behalf of the Armenian community during the time that I have been in charge of Her Majesty's Embassy, and of my answer to his Beatitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 392.

Mgr. Nercès to Mr. Malet.

M. le Ministre, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 29 Avril / 2 Mai, 1879.*

N'AYANT pu vous voir avant-hier je m'empresse d'écrire ces quelques lignes pour témoigner à votre Excellence ma vive et profonde reconnaissance pour l'intérêt qu'elle a bien voulu prendre à la communauté Arménienne durant ces quelques mois où elle a été appelée à représenter le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Les Arméniens ont eu très-rarement le bonheur de voir en Orient des Représentants du Gouvernement Anglais animés du sincère désir d'user de leur influence pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes et Musulmanes de l'Empire. Ils ne veulent pas laisser échapper la présente occasion sans vous assurer, M. le Ministre, que le peuple Anglais leur sera toujours cher s'il a toujours des Représentants tels que vous.

Veuillez, &c.
Patriarche démissionnaire,
(Signé) Archevêque NERCÈS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 392.

Mr. Malet to Mgr. Nercès.

Therapia, May 3, 1879.

Monseigneur,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Beatitude's letter of the 2nd instant, and I beg to thank you for the terms in which you are so good as to acknowledge the efforts which it has been my duty to make on behalf of the Armenians. I assure your Beatitude that, while executing a task which has certainly been most grateful to me personally, I have but been carrying out, as exactly as I could, the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, who see in the improvement of the condition of the Christian and Mussulman populations the anchor of safety of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 393.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 371.)
Therapia, May 3, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum founded on a telegram from Consul Henderson, which I have communicated to the Porte as showing the good results consequent upon the arrival of Ghalib Pasha and the Commission at Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 393.

Note Verbale.

INFORMATION has reached Her Majesty's Embassy from Aleppo that the recall of Kiamil Pasha, and the despatch of Ghalib Pasha and the Commission has already been attended with very beneficial effects.

Confidence among the Christian population is being re-established, and the danger of further disturbances, which before the recall of the late Vali was imminent, has been reduced to a minimum.

Innocent persons retained in prison for months by Kiamil Pasha have been released, and it has been found that Christian prisoners had been brought to Aleppo and detained for six months without their cases ever having been inquired into. They have been sent back to Marash.

A bribe of 500*l.* was offered to the Commission not to examine the Treasury chest. The Pasha of Marash and the General of the troops have declared to the Commission that Kiamil Pasha accepted bribes from many Zeitounli to restore their arms.

The inquiries of the Commission show Kiamil Pasha's administration to have been illegal and arbitrary, and numerous instances of corruption have been reported to them. It is unfortunately to be feared the Report of the Commission upon the late Vali's misdeeds depends upon his reception at Constantinople, and on the maintenance of the Grand Vizier in power.

The Governor-General and the Commission have been received with enthusiasm.

The Governor-General has become very popular, apparently deservedly so.

The Commission have suspended the Governor of Rumkale. They have examined the processes of the prisoners at Aleppo. The Christian prisoners at Marash have been removed to suitable houses.

A letter of submission has been received from Bebek and his band.

An estimate of the expense of the police, and a statement of the service of each policeman, is being prepared, and other equally salutary measures have been taken.

The Commission were at the time of the communication (April 29) anxiously waiting for leave from the Porte to start at once for Marash.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Therapia, May 3, 1879.

No. 394.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 372.)
Therapia, May 3, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 45 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of the note which I addressed on the 1st instant to Carathéodory Pasha, informing his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the election by the Bulgarian Assembly of Prince Alexander of Battenberg as Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 394.

Mr. Malet to Carathéodory Pasha.

Therapia, May 1, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE been desired by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform the Government of His Imperial Majesty that Her Majesty's Government approve of the election by the National Assembly of Bulgaria of Prince Alexander of Battenberg as Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 395.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 375.)
Therapia, May 4, 1879.

My Lord,

THE present phase of our influence in Turkey must be a subject of serious interest to Her Majesty's Government; I therefore venture to give a view of it gathered from conversations with Mussulmans and others who are in contact with them.

Our influence is considered to have declined since the war with Russia, and the principal reason is so obvious that it is hardly necessary to specify it. Mussulmans expected England to assist them, and as she did not do so, they attribute their reverses to having depended upon a broken reed. It is useless to recount the numberless instances in which we warned them that they must not look to us for assistance if they persisted in rejecting our advice. The tradition of generations had taught them to lean on us. They leant and fell. They choose to ignore their infirmities, and prefer to blame the staff.

The Convention of the 4th June, however, again raised their hopes, and the people of Turkey in Asia expected their deliverance from misrule and oppression at our hands. But these hopes declined, as the only result of the Convention which was apparent was the acquisition of Cyprus.

Meantime Russia, wishing to destroy a wide-spread belief that England alone protected Islamism wherever it was to be found, conceived the idea of instigating the Ameer of Afghanistan to place himself voluntarily under Russian protection. It forced us to make war on a Mahommedan Power—we were no longer the universal protectors of Islamism. The spell was broken.

Two of the pillars on which our influence rested were thus shaken, and a third has recently received a severe blow.

A year ago England was so popular in Egypt that the prospect of the infusion of English rule was hailed with delight, but the mismanagement of the foreign Ministers has alienated the affection of the people from us, and has restored the Khedive to the popularity which a chief may enjoy in a country where the paid functionaries form popular opinion, and the poor are too down-trodden to have a voice.

The Mussulman, therefore, at present considers that we deserted Turkey in her hour of need, that our protection of Islam is disproved by our war with Afghanistan, that our desire for the integrity of the Ottoman Empire is shown to be a pretence by our taking possession of Cyprus, and that our power to rule provinces properly is doubtful after the failure in Egypt.

It is almost needless to point out the shallowness of these complaints against us. Turkey brought the war upon itself by its obstinacy. Our war with Afghanistan was but a part of our fixed policy to prevent the Mahommedan world from coming under the dominion of Russia. We hold Cyprus only in order to be better able to protect the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and our success in the administration of the island will counterbalance our temporary defeat in Egypt, which was due to our having only partial control.

But it behoves us to consider how we are to bring these arguments home to the Turks and the Arabs. It is not sufficient that we should be animated by good intentions towards them. It is of the highest importance that these good intentions should be known and believed by them.

In the first place, we ought to infuse a more general activity into our policy. This object will be in a great measure attained by recasting the Consular service, and largely increasing it, which Her Majesty's Government is at present doing.

But there are fountains of public opinion which will not be affected by these measures. They are the press and Ulemas, a class akin to the priesthood in other countries. They should both be carefully watched, not only on account of their power in Turkey, but because of its extension to India.

During the last two years the Mussulmans of our Indian Empire and the Mussulmans of Turkey were brought for the first time into active correspondence through the charitable contributions which poured in from India for the sufferers by the war. The relations thus begun have developed into an interchange of ideas and a strengthening of the bond which unites communities of the same religion severed by geographical distribution. The newspapers of Constantinople, which have been by no means lenient critics of our policy, now go increasingly, though for the first time, to India, and their influence should not be regarded with indifference. With due care it might be changed from a danger to a safety. We ought either to subsidize the Turkish press of Constantinople, or to establish a Turkish paper of our own there, conducted by Mussulmans.

We should maintain frequent and friendly relations with the Ulemas. It is not possible for the Ambassador to do so personally, but a Dragoman should be appointed for the sole purpose of cultivating these relations and reporting upon native public feeling.

Another matter of great importance is the acquisition of the sympathies of the Shereefs of Mecca. Mecca and Medina are to Mahommedanism what Rome is to the Papal world. The thoughts which rule the inclinations of Mahommedans emanate to a great extent from the holy cities, from the twelve Shereefs, the Grand Shereef, and his representative at Constantinople, and they acquire more power as that of the Sultan is supposed to wane.

We should always send Mussulman doctors, British subjects, to Mecca at the time of the pilgrimage, who should open a free dispensary, and dispense medicine and political opinions to all comers, and we might establish a Consulate for Mecca and Medina, in which case we should have an official always on the spot who could render great service by his intercourse with the Shereefs.

The above views, as I had the honour to state at the outset, all come from Mussulmans who have the interest of their own country at heart, and are convinced that the English protection is the only one to which they may look without fear of destruction, while they at the same time fear that the tide of public opinion is running so much against England that active measures are necessary to stem it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 396.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 379.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 7, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 6th January last, I have the honour to inclose the translation of a document which has been communicated to me by the Porte, stating that seven of the persons concerned in the outrages at Kodoortchoor have been condemned to death, and that the trial of another is still proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 396.

Memorandum.

(Traduction.)

LA Sublime Porte informe l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique que, d'après un rapport de la Cour de Cassation du Vilayet d'Erzéroum, parvenu au Ministère de la Justice, sept individus qui ont trempé dans les outrages commis à Hodourtchour, ont été condamnés à mort; à savoir: les nommés Hussein et Halid, fils de Chérif; Mevloud de Keskim et Mevloud, fils de Tchighin; Bahloul, Ismaïl, et Cartaloglou Hussein. La sentence a été transmise au Ministère de la Justice.

Que le nommé Omer, de Honourd qui est accusé d'avoir brûlé dix maisons dans le village de Hodourtchour a été arrêté, et que son procès est examiné avec grande diligence; et que les dix-sept personnes qui ont été envoyées par le vilayet de Trébizonde, comme complices et récéleurs des sept condamnés ci-dessus, n'ayant pas été reconnues par les parties intéressées, leur culpabilité ou leur innocence ne pourra être prouvée qu'à l'arrivée des malfaiteurs signalés plus d'une fois par la Cour, au vilayet de Trébizonde, et dont elle a demandé l'arrestation. Ces individus sont: Minich, Tossoun, et Hassan, fils de Tourli; le Caporal Hussein de Caradéré, avec son fils, son gendre, et ses compagnons.

No. 397.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 380. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 7, 1879.

CARATHÉODORY PASHA has informed me very confidentially that the Porte possesses proofs beyond question that the Italian Government is carrying on extensive intrigues in Albania with a view to promoting designs for the annexation at some future period of that province to Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 398.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 382.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a petition which I have received from certain Mussulman refugees from Sophia, complaining of the difficulties put in the way of their disposing of their property in Bulgaria by the Administration of that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 398.

Mussulman Emigrants from Sophia to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, le $\frac{3}{15}$ Avril, 1879.

Excellence,

LES souffrances des Musulmans qui se trouvent en Bulgarie étant généralement connues, nous croyons que c'est inutile d'en donner ici un exposé. Seulement ce que nous allons exposer à votre Excellence ayant trait à nos droits garantis par le Traité de Berlin, nous espérons qu'il attirera votre attention et que votre Excellence dans sa haute sollicitude contribuera pour remédier à un état de choses intolérable.

En vertu du Traité de Berlin, les propriétaires Musulmans n'étant point expropriés de leurs biens immobiliers, ils ont le droit d'en disposer soit personnellement, soit par un fondé-de-pouvoirs.

Malgré cette disposition du Traité, le Gouvernement Russo-Bulgare de la Bulgarie ne respectant ni la lettre ni la teneur des décisions prises à Berlin, ne permet pas aux Musulmans de disposer de leurs immeubles soit personnellement, soit par un fondé-de-pouvoirs.

Lors de l'émigration les fermes et autres terrains de la plupart de nous, sous le prétexte de protection, ont été donnés en loyer par l'Administration Russe, mais quel loyer! Un immeuble qui se louait ordinairement à 15,000 piastres l'an avait été loué pour seulement 300 piastres, et même cet argent n'a pas encore été remis aux propriétaires, malgré leurs demandes et démarches faites à cet effet.

L'Administration Russe a en outre loué ces immeubles pour un délai de trois années, et cela dans le but de faire écouler le terme fixé par le Traité, et trouver ensuite un prétexte pour nous exproprier.

L'Administration Russe se refuse en outre à reconnaître les titres de propriété que nous avons en main; mais elle réclame deux témoins, soit Bulgares soit Juifs, pour affirmer notre droit de propriété. Or, les Bulgares se refusent à témoigner en notre faveur, et les Juifs, ne connaissant pas l'état des choses de villages, nous nous voyons de cette manière expropriés malgré les titres officiels que nous avons en notre possession, et malgré la teneur d'un Traité signé par les Grandes Puissances.

En nous adressant à vous, M. l'Ambassadeur, nous espérons que votre Excellence voudra bien intervenir auprès de qui de droit afin de mettre un terme à un état de choses injuste et intolérable; nous avons l'honneur d'ajouter qu'une copie de notre présente requête a été aussi remise à la Sublime Porte, ainsi qu'aux Représentants des Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Nous prions votre Excellence de bien vouloir agréer, &c.

(Signé) Les Emigrés Musulmans de Sophia.

No. 399.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 383. Secret.)

Therapia, May 8, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Sultan requested Mr. Malet to send a telegram to await my arrival at the Dardanelles, inviting me to dine at the Palace on the evening of the day I was to reach Constantinople. As I was anxious to have some private conversation with His Majesty, I asked him, through the first interpreter, Nunir Bey, to receive me in private audience before the dinner. His Majesty at once graciously acceded to my request. As I have not found time to report to your Lordship fully what passed on the occasion, I have requested Sir Alfred Sandison to draw up a Memorandum on the subject, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

His Majesty invited Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, Lord Donoughmore, Mr. Malet, and Lord George Montagu to the dinner. He requested Mr. Malet to call at the Palace before his departure that he might take leave of him. Mr. Malet accordingly waited upon His Majesty yesterday before embarking.

His Majesty expressed to me his entire satisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Malet had discharged his duties as Her Majesty's Minister during my absence, and his high appreciation of his character. His Majesty presented Mr. Malet with a pair of studs, which he had worn himself, as a trifling souvenir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 399.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison respecting Sir A. H. Layard's Audience of Sultan.

ON entering the Sultan's presence yesterday, your Excellency thanked His Majesty for his kindness in at once granting you a private audience. His Majesty expressed great pleasure in receiving you, and said that having longed to see you again he had requested Mr. Malet to ask you to go to the Palace immediately after your arrival. Your Excellency then presented him with the letter from the Queen, together with the compliments of the members of the Royal Family, who continued to take a sincere interest in His Majesty's welfare and prosperity. It was, he said, excessively gratifying to his feelings to hear it, and that nothing would give him so much pleasure as a voyage to England, the chief object of which would be to pay a visit to the Queen. It was one of the projects which he cherished most, inasmuch as he felt the want of a change after all his trials. For various reasons, however, he would rather not undertake the journey at the present moment, in consequence especially of the Greek question, which, in the interests of his Empire, he felt anxious to see definitively settled. The Porte, it is true, had not been able to avail itself of the offer made by Her Majesty's Government that the matter should be placed entirely in their hands, the principal objections against it being the danger of a serious disturbance in Albania, calculated to give considerable trouble to the Porte, and the vagueness of the proposal as to the line of frontier to be awarded to Greece, but being fully alive to the dangers of a Conference, for it was purely the Constantinople Conference, he said, that had brought on the late war with Russia, he would, on receiving the assurance of the support of Her Majesty's Government, propose to your Excellency, in strict confidence, a line of frontier calculated to satisfy all the interests concerned, including those of England as regards the Mediterranean.

Your Excellency, after expressing regret at His Majesty not having accepted the proposal of placing the matter entirely in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, with the prospect of thus preserving Janina and Larissa, said that it was perhaps too late now to propose the arrangement he had in view, inasmuch as Her Majesty's Government may have already concurred in the proposal for a Conference made by France, who had taken up the Greek question with much earnestness and firmness.

As the Sultan seemed to think that your Excellency was acquainted with the views of the French Government in this matter, which you said was not precisely the case, your Excellency begged to know what were His Majesty's own notions respecting them. His Majesty replied that what France seemed bent upon was that the Greek question should be disposed of on the basis of the line proposed by the Congress. Your Excellency said that, the Congress having determined no particular line, the question remained in a vague and undefined position, so much so, that it was not easy to say whether it contemplated that the line should extend to below or above Janina. But talking of France and the course she was now pursuing in this question, you expressed the fear that in the event of Janina being preserved to Turkey, she might bring her efforts to bear upon the line of frontier being carried up the Pass of Metzovo, which virtually commands that town.

His Majesty ended, however, by saying that, in order to give you a full idea of the line he now proposes, he would in a day or two show it you upon the map; he further requested you to inquire of Lord Salisbury, by telegraph, whether his offer to settle the Greek question was still open to acceptance, and whether he could count upon the support of Her Majesty's Government.

The conversation then turned upon Eastern Roumelia, which the Sultan said continued to be a source of anxiety to him. The Emperor's Aide-de-camp, who was the bearer of the letter from His Imperial Majesty, had given him to understand that Russia did not recognize the opportuneness of the contemplated occupation of the Balkans by the Turkish troops, and that he had accordingly endeavoured to obtain his authority to proclaim to the population of Eastern Roumelia that the Turkish Government intended to desist from it. The matter, His Majesty added, had been before his Ministers, but that the Mazbata which they had submitted to him not being sufficiently clear on this important point, he had taken care to introduce into it the modification to the effect that the Balkans will not be occupied by his troops "for a few days to come."* Russia, moreover, he continued, was trying to hold him responsible for any disturbances which might occur in Eastern Roumelia during the

* The Mazbata said "for the present."

interval between the Russian evacuation and the re-establishment of his authority in the province under the Treaty, which he thought was excessively unfair, since it was not possible to provide or answer for the tranquillity of the province before the Turks were actually in a condition to do so.

Your Excellency reminded His Majesty of the present circumstances of Russia, stating that a firm attitude (such as that of the British Government) had already led to satisfactory results in more than one instance, the occupation of Bourgas by Turkish troops being one of them, in which the Russians, who had hitherto been opposing it, had now entirely given way.

Your Excellency concluded by saying that, by a firm attitude on his part too, he might easily preserve his rights under the Treaty, and that he should therefore commit himself to nothing calculated to weaken or destroy them.

The Sultan concluded the conversation by alluding to the subject of reforms in Turkey. People in general, he said, and amongst others his own Ministers, went on talking a great deal about them, without, however, knowing much of what were the practicable reforms really required by the circumstances of the country. He had, therefore, given his serious attention to the matter, and had sketched out a plan of reforms which he intended to send soon to his Ministers, with a view to their ulterior execution. In the meantime he would furnish your Excellency confidentially with a copy of them for transmission to Her Majesty's Government, and felt confident that they would meet with their approval, inasmuch as he considers them more or less adapted to their views.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, May 6, 1879.

No. 400.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 384.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 8, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 53 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to state that I have urged upon the Sultan, the Grand Vizier, and Caratheodory Pasha the importance of not binding the Porte by any pledge which will prevent it sending troops to Bourgas and Ichtiman, or into the interior of Eastern Roumelia in case of an insurrectionary movement in that province, and I have received the most distinct assurances from them that no such pledge has been, or will be, given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 401.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 385. Very Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 8, 1879.

THE Grand Vizier has been good enough to explain to me his reasons for accepting so readily Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of the new Province of Eastern Roumelia. His Highness said that, owing to the attitude taken up by the French Ambassador, and the manner in which he had "demoralized" Rustem Pasha by representing to him the dangers which he was running in accepting that post, it was useless to think of insisting on his going to Philippopolis. Moreover, although the Russian Government might, in the end, have outwardly consented to the nomination of Rustem Pasha, it would secretly have done all in its power to throw difficulties in the way of his administration of the province. It had already succeeded, by the most gross misrepresentation of his character, accusing him of even the most detestable crimes, and of having oppressed the Christians in Mount Lebanon, in setting the whole Bulgarian population against him, so that they appeared determined to resist his installation as Governor even by force. Such being the case, his Highness said he had thought it better to accept a candidate who was agreeable to Russia, and who would probably not be opposed by the other Powers. Aleko Pasha was not, perhaps, the most desirable Governor for Eastern Roumelia, but he was the best man that could be found under present circumstances.

I replied that I was not prepared to dispute the cogency of his Highness' arguments, but that I trusted that he would take care that it should be fully understood that the Porte, in naming Aleko Pasha, did not commit itself to the principle that in future the Governor of Eastern Roumelia should always be a Bulgarian, or of the Greek faith. The Treaty of Berlin provided that he should be a Christian, without defining to what religious community he should belong. The Porte had already made a very serious mistake in allowing France to insist that the Governor of the Lebanon should always be a Roman Catholic, although there was nothing in the Règlement for the Mountain which justified the pretension, merely because the first Governor named was of that religion.

His Highness promised me that he would take care that what I had suggested should be clearly understood when Aleko Pasha was officially appointed.

I gather from some remarks made to me by the Sultan that His Majesty has not full confidence in Aleko Pasha, and that he suspects that he may not prove loyal to the interests of Turkey. On the other hand, I am assured, on good authority, that Count Andrassy thought well of his patriotism when he was Ambassador at Vienna. It appears that he was greatly irritated against Edhem Pasha, who, when Grand Vizier, removed him, as he considered, without cause from his post, and that he wrote some strong letters against Turkey which appeared in the French press. This may have given rise to the suspicion that he is no friend of the Turks, and may have enabled his enemies to work against him in the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 402.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 386.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a petition signed by a number of the Christian inhabitants of Thessaly, and dated from Larissa, praying for the annexation of their country to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 402.

Petition.

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

L'EUROPE, désirant dans sa charité prévenir le retour des troubles, décréta dans le Congrès de Berlin un certain ordre de choses en Orient. Dans le Traité qui a été conclu, une clause fut insérée d'après laquelle notre patrie est cédée à la Grèce libre.

Par le concours des Puissances qui ont signé le susdit Traité—la Turquie non-exceptée—toutes les dispositions du Décret de Berlin ont été mises en exécution. Cependant, pour ce qui regarde l'exécution de l'Article XXII qui, ainsi qu'il est notoire, concerne notre pays, quelques-uns de nos concitoyens Ottomans, après le retour de leurs Délégués qu'ils avaient envoyés à Prevoza, ont essayé ces jours derniers de soulever des obstacles en interprétant d'une manière erronée le texte du Traité. Pénétrés d'un ordre d'idées pareilles, ils procédèrent à la rédaction de pétitions tant à l'adresse de la Commission de Délimitation qui avait siégé à Prevoza qu'à celle de la Sublime Porte, tâchant par ce moyen d'étudier les dispositions de la clause spéciale en question.

Les Soussignés, Excellence, non-seulement sont loin de participer à cette démarche exclusive de leur part, mais ils y protestent, et déclarent qu'elle est contraire à l'opinion unanime de l'Europe entière et aux intérêts bien entendus de la Sublime Porte.

Les Soussignés, persuadés que cette intrigue sera appréciée à sa juste valeur, ne sauraient admettre que cette cruelle exception a été uniquement réservée à la race Hellénique, dont les droits ont été mis en part égale avec ceux des autres races de l'Orient, et ils pensent que la cession de territoire à la Grèce libre a été unanimement jugée nécessaire.

L'espoir que cette question-ci sera résolue en conformité de ce qui a été décrété pénètre les Soussignés d'une reconnaissance sans bornes envers le généreux Gouvernement que vous représentez si dignement et auquel vous êtes prié de communiquer le contenu de cette pétition.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Les habitants de Thessalie.

Larisse, le 6 Mars, 1879.

No. 403.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 387.)
Therapia, May 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopolis relative to the affairs of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, April 29, 1879.

Sir,

AS stated in my telegram of this day, I attended this morning, with the other members of the Consular Corps, by the invitation of the Russian Governor of Philippopolis, a *Te Deum* and parade in honour of the Emperor's birthday.

In the capacity of Doyen I had the pleasure of conveying to the Governor-General the congratulations of the Consular Body, and the expression of their heartfelt wishes for the health and happiness of the Emperor of Russia.

The great feature of the *Te Deum* was the unusual harmony that seemingly prevailed between the Bulgarian Exarch and Archbishop and the Greek Archbishop. A Russian priest conducted the greater part of the service, but the Exarch pronounced the benediction, and presented the cross to the Governor-General and others.

At the conclusion of the *Te Deum* M. Constantine Hadji Kaltchoff, speaking in Russian, addressed the Governor-General in the name of all the Southern Bulgarians, expressing their gratitude and boundless devotion to the Monarch who had liberated them. In reply, General Stolipine said that the Emperor protected Christians of all creeds, and that he would have much pleasure in conveying to His Majesty the congratulations and gratitude of the "inhabitants of Southern Bulgaria, called Eastern Roumelia."

At the parade the Governor-General showed me marked attention, and as I stood close to his Excellency he kindly pointed out the merits of the various troops which passed before him. He was more particularly proud of the four batteries of artilley and of the mountain-gun battery.

The Roumelian militia of this district, armed with Russian rifles (about 1,500), appeared to march in very good order, and their Commander, Colonel Kessiakoff, assured me that they were in no way inferior to Russian troops in drill and discipline.

The Roumelian yeomanry of this district (about 300) did not appear, to my unprofessional eye, to be equally advanced in drill, and their horses were certainly inferior to those of the Cossacks.

Some of the gymnasts seemed to have acquired a considerable proficiency in keeping step and shouldering muskets, particularly in the front lines.

The remainder of the Roumelian militia of the district consisted of what General Stolipine called "gardes champêtres," peasants wearing their own dress, and kept in some kind of formation by a considerable number of Russian soldiers. They appeared to have only a very superficial acquaintance with the Russian words of command, for they either carried or presented arms when ordered to shoulder them.

In some companies every third or fourth man belonged to the Russian army, and wore its uniform, evidently with a view to the preservation of order in their ranks.

The General assured me that the unarmed "gardes champêtres" (about one-third

of the Roumelian mass) had voluntarily flocked to Philippopolis, in order to demonstrate their gratitude and devotion to the Emperor of Russia on the occasion of his birthday, and that although they had all clamoured for arms, his Excellency had unfortunately not been able to supply them.

There was much enthusiasm in the form of shouting and the waving of caps when the General rode down the Roumelian ranks, and when they marched past him. The banners carried by the militia were of a most heterogeneous character. Some were formed by the stitching together of four parti-coloured handkerchiefs, some bore the Russian eagle, and most of them had inscriptions, which were, however, not very legible to spectators. I was only able to make out the names of some villages to which the "gardes champêtres" belonged, but I have been informed that some of the banners bore political devices, such as "Liberty or Death," &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, April 29, 1879.

Sir,

AT the supper which closed the fête champêtre given this evening by the Archangelogorod Regiment in honour of the Emperor's birthday, and to which the Consular Corps was invited, General Stolipine proposed toasts to the "unification of the Southern Slavs" and the "prosperity of Southern Bulgaria."

Colonel Kessiakoff, the Commander of the Roumelian Militia, called upon the company to drink the health of General Stolipine, the "creator and organizer of the troops of Southern Bulgaria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, April 30, 1879.

Sir,

THE Governor-General read to me this evening a telegram, which he received in my presence, from the Governor of Slivno, reporting that the Turkish population in that district (which, I believe, has been reduced to a very small number) had refused to be enrolled in the Roumelian militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)

Philippopolis, April 30, 1879.

Sir,

GENERAL STOLIPINE made some remarks to me this evening on the subject of the officering of the Roumelian militia. He said that, in his opinion, the Commander should be a Bulgarian, but that it was not advisable to retain any Russian officers, as the latter could only be adventurers without a career in their own country, or men with political tendencies as Colonel Kessiakoff had exhibited last night at the supper at which I had been present.

In reply, his Excellency said that, if the command were taken away from Colonel Kessiakoff, the Roumelian levies would disband; and, in saying this, he did not appear to see how much such a result was to be desired from a point of view different from his own.

He added that, as regards the officers, several Germans were applying for commissions, and that he had agreed to accept their services on condition of their

requiring no pay, because he was at a loss to know from what fund such pay could be defrayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)
Philippopolis, April 30, 1879.

Sir,

MR. ACTING VICE-CONSUL CALVERT reports that the Governor-General said to him yesterday: "Whatever you may say, you cannot deny that I have done my best to establish Russian influence in this country."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, April 30, 1879.

Sir,

MAJOR ARDAGH and four other officers of the Roumelian Boundary Commission passed through Philippopolis this afternoon, on their way to Tatar-Bazardjik, but unfortunately they were not able to call upon the Governor during the short stoppage which the train makes at this station.

As General Stolipine appeared to be offended at these officers not having paid him a visit, I expressed their regret at being obliged to proceed to Tatar-Bazardjik without doing themselves the honour of calling upon his Excellency. They were accompanied, I said, by eight or nine servants, and had with them six horses and a large quantity of luggage, and it would, therefore, have been very difficult for them, if not impossible, to break their journey at Philippopolis, where accommodation would have been unavailable for such a large party.

Although the General had previously told me that he had been instructed to provide them with an escort, he informed me this evening that he could only make arrangements for escorting them within the district in which his troops were stationed, and that the district of Ichtiman, to which the officers were proceeding, was occupied by troops under Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff.

A telegram reached the General while I was with him from General Lashkaroff, commanding in the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, who, in reporting the arrival of the English officers, asked what he was to do with them.

General Stolipine at once replied that they could only be escorted as far as the boundary of the Ichtiman district, and that beyond that point they must obtain an escort from Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff. His Excellency also telegraphed to Prince Labanoff, asking for information and instructions.

I have communicated with Major Ardagh to the above effect by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)
Philippopolis, April 30, 1879.

Sir,

CONSIDERING the importance of creating a good impression on the Russian authorities at the outset of my official duties in this province, I have thought it more prudent not to ask any direct questions as to the Russian arrangements for evacuating Eastern Roumelia. It has, however, reached me from several sources that a postponement of certain military measures with that object has been decided upon, and that the final evacuation of Eastern Roumelia is not expected to take place before the middle of July, new style.

Madame Stolipine is making arrangements for almost immediate departure; but the Governor-General says vaguely that he must remain in Eastern Roumelia until the last Russian soldier has left the province.

His Excellency told me this evening that he was quite ready to give over the civil administration to Aleko Pasha, whenever the latter should arrive at Philippopolis to assume the functions of Governor-General, and that he would then remain for some time longer only in the capacity of Commander of the Russian forces.

Meanwhile, tenders are being invited for the supply of hospital necessaries at Tirnova, Semenly, Yamboli, Karnabad, and Bourgas. An official invitation for such a tender has been shown to me. It requires the tender to be made at Philippopolis on 22nd April / 4th May; and although the duration of the contract is not specified, I have been informed that it is intended to keep the above-mentioned hospitals open till the 30th July / 11th August next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir,

Philippopolis, April 30, 1879.

THE Greek inhabitants of this town, who appear to be extremely prolific in the production of rumours, have spread a report to the effect that, in addressing the Roumelian militia and "gardes champêtres," yesterday morning, General Stolipine called upon them not to allow a single Turkish soldier to enter "Southern Bulgaria."

On mentioning this report to the General merely as an instance of the gossip that prevails, his Excellency said it was ridiculous.

The General certainly never said anything of the kind within my hearing, but it is nevertheless quite possible that he may have done so, after the parade, while accepting the regulation glass of vodki from the Roumelian levies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir,

Philippopolis, May 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, herewith, a copy of a Memorandum, addressed to me by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, on the state of affairs in the districts of Mount Rhodope.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 10 in No. 403.

Memorandum.

HAVING heard that Tömroushly Ahmet Agha, a Pomak Chief of some note, had collected a large force of Mussulman mountaineers at the village of Trigrad, in the Rhodope, for the purpose of making a descent on the Bulgarians of the plain, on the departure of the Russian army, I caused private inquiries to be made among the Rhodope Pomaks who occasionally come to Philippopolis, with a view to ascertaining the truth of the report in question.

I employed Turks to make these inquiries in order to avoid arousing the suspicions of the Pomaks as to the motive of the questions put to them.

The information which I have thus been able to obtain I believe to be trustworthy, and it is to the following effect:—

Tömroushly Ahmet Agha is indeed at Trigrad, but he has collected no forces, nor has he any intention of attacking the Bulgarians. The concentration of any body of

irregulars in the Rhodope would, in fact, be impossible at present, if the statements of the Pomak villagers be correct. According to them the Turkish authorities in the Rhodope have adopted the strictest measures for the preservation of order; and the Turkish troops preserve a vigilant control over the actions of the mountaineers. Throughout the districts under Turkish occupation a severe system of passports has been instituted; no man, whether Turk or Bulgarian, being allowed to proceed from one village to another, even though his starting-point and destination be in the same canton, without a pass, which is signed by the nearest military commandant, and which is only given on the applicant furnishing a surety for his good behaviour.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopolis, May 2, 1879.

Inclosure 11 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 2, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 30th April, I beg to report that Major Ardagh and Captain Everitt returned yesterday morning from Tatar-Bazardjik in order to pay their respects to General Stolipine and to obtain his assistance in the furtherance of their mission.

The General appeared to be gratified with this visit, and, after some little deliberation, gave orders by telegraph for an escort of twenty dragoons and two officers to be prepared for Major Ardagh's party, together with carts for their luggage.

His Excellency also supplied the party with a "laissez passer," after having telegraphed to the military commanders of the districts through which the British officers will pass.

Major Ardagh and Captain Everitt left for Tatar-Bazardjik this morning, having been unable to leave by the train yesterday afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 12 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 2, 1879.

Sir,

THE Bulgarian Exarch, who is reported to be a man of moderate and even "Conservative" views, has assured me, in the course of two conversations which I have held with him, that the Bulgarian population of Eastern Roumelia is quite ready to accept with quiet submissiveness the form of administration created by the Treaty of Berlin, providing always that the Turks do not occupy the Balkans. He said that agitators were endeavouring to persuade the people that, although the Turks might renounce, for the present, their right to occupy the Balkan range, yet that eventually that right would be exercised to the prejudice of the privileges that had been acquired.

I told the Exarch that those privileges were guaranteed by the Great Powers, since the Organic Statute, which would shortly be put into force, was the work of a European Commission appointed under the Treaty of Berlin. At the same time, I said, those Powers were equally determined to cause their decisions to be respected by the people of Eastern Roumelia, and the absence of Turkish troops in the Balkans would not prevent recourse to the most rigorous measures in the event of any attempt being made, at the instigation of agitators, to impede the introduction of that Statute. Demonstrations and opposition of a turbulent and riotous character could not be tolerated under the new rule in Eastern Roumelia, intended as it was to give peace and tranquillity to the country. In the freest countries such proceedings were not tolerated, and it was, indeed, the interest of every good citizen to see the law respected.

In expressing a hope that his Eminence would, in the interest of his countrymen, use his great influence in the direction of inculcating the necessity of respecting the

law and maintaining order, I referred to the session of the Eagle Society, which appeared to have assumed the duty of deciding upon the course to be taken by the Bulgarian inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia after the Russian evacuation.

The Exarch assured me, in reply, that he was still making every effort in that direction, and that he had personally attended the last session of the Eagle Society in order to impress upon its members their incompetency to decide a question of such vital importance to the whole province. He assured me that his remonstrances on that occasion had resulted in the dissolution of the last meeting, and that he had himself convoked the present session, after securing the nomination of an overwhelming majority of moderate delegates, solely with the object of procuring such a decision as would thwart the projects of professional agitators. He stated that three-fourths of the delegates at the present session of the Society belonged to the moderate party, and that his object would, therefore, be attained.

After listening to this explanation I thought it my duty to point out to his Eminence that an administration, such as could be established under the Organic Statute, could never, with any self-respect, listen to the dictates of a secret society or of a body of gymnasts, such as had recently been organized and reviewed, and much less would it tolerate the interference of such confederations with the duties and functions of a responsible Government.

I made these observations in a friendly spirit, and merely as the expression of my own views, because it has appeared to me, from the conversations I have had with a variety of individuals at Philippopolis, that the Bulgarian and other agitators in this country have been encouraged, under Russian patronage, to assume a greater importance than that to which they are entitled, simply by the success which has attended their efforts to establish a semblance of power and authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 13 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 3, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE learnt that the Russian cavalry stationed in this neighbourhood have received orders to remain in the Rhodope districts of Eastern Roumelia until the 23rd July / 4th August next.

I am also informed that two Russian batteries of artillery and two ambulance waggons passed through Philippopolis yesterday from Tatar-Bazardjik on their way to Hasskeui, on the borders of the Province of Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 14 in No. 403.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 3, 1879.

Sir,

THE Greek Archbishop has told me that he knows as a fact that the so-called "gardes champêtres" were driven from their villages by the Russian authorities in order to take part in the review held on the 29th ultimo.

A Russian officer has told Mr. Calvert that, at the village of Stroyorvo, close to Philippopolis, the departure of the local gymnasts was attended by a ludicrous amount of lamentation on the part both of the relatives that remained behind and of the men who had been designated to take part in the review, the impression being that they were wanted for the purpose of fighting the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 404.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 388.)
Therapia, May 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which have been received from the Acting Consuls at Adrianople and Varna respecting affairs of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 404.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, May 2, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that M. Karavayeff, a Lieutenant of cavalry, has been temporarily accredited to the Turkish authorities as "faisant fonctions" of Russian Consul at Adrianople.

To the members of the Consular Body M. Karavayeff intimated his nomination in person and verbally yesterday, his visits being paid in full military uniform and without previous announcement. M. Karavayeff informed me that M. Ivanoff, the Russian Consul here previous to the war, would probably receive some other appointment, and that it was uncertain how long his own Consular functions would last. There is reason to believe, however, that a military officer has been selected for their performance at this juncture on account of his having to discuss with the Turkish military authorities arrangements connected with the Russian troops in the adjacent province. It appears probable, therefore, that the term of M. Karavayeff's duties will coincide with that of the Russian occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 404.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)
Adrianople, May 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to address to your Excellency at midnight yesterday a cypher telegram worded as follows:—

"According to confidential information from a sure source, General Stolipine stated the day before yesterday that, in conformity with counter-orders, five corps d'armée would continue to occupy Eastern Roumelia until the 30th (18th) July, and that duration of his stay at Philippopolis would depend upon behaviour of Aleko Pasha."

Although my informant did not feel himself at liberty to state the source of his information or to mention the name of the person to whom General Stolipine made the statement in question, I infer that it was in both cases M. Schmidt. However this may be, I can hardly doubt that your Excellency will have received a more precise and authoritative report on the subject. It was in the hope that my communication might reach you the soonest that I telegraphed what I had heard.

Mr. Consul-General Palgrave, who arrived from Philippopolis this evening on his way to Constantinople, assures me that there can be no doubt that the Russians are evacuating in earnest, and as General Stolipine, to my knowledge, indulges sometimes in reckless statements, it appears probable that his boastful announcement has not much real significance. My informant, however, tells me that the General specifically declared that the Archangelsh infantry would continue to occupy Philippopolis till the 30th (18th) July next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 404.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, May 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour herewith to inclose to your Excellency copies of three despatches I have sent to Mr. Palgrave, Her Majesty's Consul for Bulgaria. The two first refer to the threatened expulsion of the Mussulman population living in the Balkans, and the third to the reception of the news of Prince A. Battenberg's election.

The expectation I expressed in the first Report of the forcible expropriation of the Mussulmans unless proper measures were taken has only been too fully realized; for thousands of Bulgarian villagers, coming from the south, mostly from the Kirk-Kilissa and Adrianople districts, have been steadily arriving in increasing numbers, and, with the aid of the local Governments, have not only turned Turkish families altogether out of their houses, letting them shift as best they can, but have in most cases robbed, beaten, and sometimes killed the owners, and, at all events, leaving them bereft of all means of future subsistence. More than enough details have been brought to my knowledge to furnish ample materials for a sensational account, but I prefer to give your Excellency the simple skeleton facts, premising merely that the Christian villagers, the neighbours of the people in question, had no complaint against them as participating in robbery, outrages, &c.; on the contrary, they were in many instances protected by these same Turks against Circassians, and that, therefore, whatever injustice is being now perpetrated on the Turks in those parts is being done from political motives or for the sake of plunder, or both incitements combined, and therefore done in cold blood; and that all the examples I give are taken from people coming to testify to facts on one day only, viz., to-day, although other days have been hardly less fruitful in complaints of oppression not worth special recording, because the hardships are of exactly the same character.

This morning four Turks of the villages of Frankd, Dervent, and Sari Gull, all in this caza, came and expressed their case thus: These villages being on the direct road, Russian soldiery were, very soon after their arrival, billeted on them in such numbers that five-sixths of the houses had to be abandoned by their former dwellers, who came to live at Varna or some of the neighbouring villages where soldiers were not quartered. When, about five days ago, the soldiers moved out, the former occupants came back; they found them taken up or surrounded by Bulgarian villagers from the south, accompanied by zaptiehs, who refused to move out, because the Government had assigned to them these habitations. The Turks then addressed themselves to the Varna authorities, expressing their willingness to entertain in their houses a certain quantity of the immigrants, and to aid them in every possible way, even to the extent of building them afterwards huts, as was done during the Tartar immigration; but the local Government refused them redress, saying that the Bulgarians were not Tchinganes (Gipsies), to be divided by two or three in a house, but Slavs. The above complainants, being debarred from the use of their houses and fields, must either starve or emigrate, the latter being synonymous with starving for them in a strange place, they preferred, for some reason or other, to die in the place where they were born.

About an hour after, Mehemed Oghlou Yakoub of Denizler, Mehemed Oglou of Djafir, Hadji Sale of Tchiflikli, presented themselves, and, as representatives of other villages, handed in the document inclosed, and stated that although, through the utter insecurity of communications any Turks going out of their villages were exposed to the extreme peril of their lives, and they were only able to obtain a tithe of what was going on; they could vouch thus much briefly, the same being rather under than over the mark.

That the villages of Aivajik and Guenziki, and other totally or partially evacuated Mussulman villages, had been occupied by the recently-arrived Bulgarian exodus, and when houses happened to be occupied by their owners, the latter were driven away and generally plundered.

Gazali.—Inhabitants stripped of their total belongings, driven out, and rejoiced to get to Denizlar with their lives.

Deniz-keui.—Two oxen stolen; man driving them beaten; man's life despaired of.

Kishla Déré.—Inhabitants driven out; fled to Misevria.

Tchelebi-keui.—Two men coming from Mili robbed of flour and animals by six Bulgarians.

Yeni-keui.—Reported plunder and expulsion.

Arnaoutlar.—Crowds of Bulgarians demanding immediate evacuation of the houses. Turks parleying, with not much hope.

Knemlik Aidos-bazaar.—A youth conducting a pair of buffaloes robbed and killed by Bulgarians; corpse found cut to pieces and otherwise mutilated in a dung-heap.

Karamandgee.—Turks robbed of about ten head of cattle by the Bulgarians of the neighbouring village of Erketsh.

Kaldermaleh.—Sixty Bulgarians plundered village from top to bottom, and killed six persons.

I may add that on previous occasions I had advised the Turks who came to me for advice to remain on to the last at their villages, trusting that, as the orders for evacuation were not in writing, they might not be forcibly carried out, and that in the meantime more just and sensible counsels might prevail; but in this I have been deceived, and the Turkish families not obtaining redress came to the Representative of that Power which they say has been the most active in recognizing their claims to pity as oppressed and suffering human beings irrespective of creed.

The political view of the subject—the forcible filling up of the Balkans with Bulgarians in places where Turks live—is too self-evident to be dwelt on, though it will doubtless be taken into consideration when the question of settling the boundaries comes into the foreground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 404.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Varna, April 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday two Turks, Ahmed Oghlu Hassan and Ali Oghlu Ahmed, elders of the village of Arnaoutlar, about seven hours from this to the south, in the Caza of Misevria, which is under the dependency of the Ahiolo Government, came to me and reported the following facts, begging me at the same time, as the people they represented were in a state of perplexity and desperation, to communicate their information to the higher authorities in order to put a stop to the grievances of which they complain.

Twice, the last time being the 18th of this month, Bulgarian police officers belonging to the Ahiolo administration, one of whom being named Milkof, came to their village as well as to the other villages in the Misevria district where Turkish inhabitants still remain, viz., Arnaoutlar, Cenizlar, Dana Guenz, Tchelibi-keui, Hodja-keui, and Gnebesh, and ordered them to quit their homes immediately, and to proceed viâ Ahiolo, where they would get passports, to Yamboli, and thence to that part of the country directly under the government of the Porte, saying that Bulgarian refugees would be arriving in a day or two and would want their holdings to settle down in.

The alternative offered them, if they remained, was to share their property, lands, houses, corn, money, &c., with the new-comers, and to make their women abandon "férédjés" and "yashmaks," or, in other words, to become Christians of the Bulgarian persuasion.

My informants, rightly or wrongly, ascribed these orders, which are not written but verbal, to the influence of M. Dimitri Brakalof, head of the Administrative Council of Ahiolo, a man of a good deal of weight in those parts, and who, according to universal report, proofs of which could be easily brought forward if required, has largely increased his stock of live cattle at the expense of the Mussulmans living in the sub-province where he is dominant, besides more or less concerned in transactions of a less venial nature.

From other sources I have heard that the Turkish villagers near the River Kamtchik, in the Caza of Aidos, have been invited in almost similar terms to abandon their homesteads; unfortunately, however, the people thus addressed seem not to be imbued with a due spirit of resignation, but declare that, not knowing where to go without starving, they would, the chance being given them, prefer to resist their expulsion as best they could, and die where they were rather than in another place.

The precaution having seemingly been taken not to put these orders down in writing, but to trust them to the approved zeal of the local zaptiehs, would seem to

point out that the existence of these orders would be denied if such a course proved convenient, but nevertheless, if not hindered, they will be effectually carried out.

It is a strange coincidence, although it may be a fortuitous one, that most of the Turkish villages in question are bordering the provisional line traced out by the Treaty of Berlin, separating Bulgaria from the Province of Eastern Roumelia, the Commissioners who are to lay down the definite boundaries being expected shortly to commence their labours by travelling over the spots in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 404.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sir,

Varna, April 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday some Turks named Rustem Oghlou Abdurrahman and Nouman Oghlou Eumer, of the village of Kürd Tchiftlighi, and Nouman Oghlou Hassan and Hussein Oghlou Eyoub from Aivadjik, both villages being situated in the Caza of Aidos, presented themselves here and complained that the zaptiehs from the Aidos Government had two days previously come to their own and other villages and told them that they must either contribute soldiers at once, the limits of age being from 20 to 25 years, or else leave the country without delay and go to Yamboli; in fact, repeating very much the same orders and threats as those used towards other Mussulman villagers to which I referred in my despatch of the 21st instant.

It is to be remarked that though up to the present the old limits of the caza jurisdiction have been retained, a great many of the villages in the Misevria and Aidos district, are to the north of the line fixed by the Boundary Commissioners as separating Bulgaria from Eastern Roumelia, and therefore, if the inhabitants are liable to military service, it is as militia of the former Principality.

Some of the more intelligent Turks allow, that if they elect to remain in Bulgaria, they will be bound to supply their contingent of militia, but they observe that nothing can force them to wear the "kalpak" with the double cross, an emblem, they say, adopted by the Bulgarians, not so much for the sake of cohesion or their abstract love of it, as for a mark of antagonistic distinction from the Mussulman religion and its followers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 404.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sir,

Varna, May 3, 1879.

THE announcement of the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg as Prince of Bulgaria, which arrived here in the afternoon of the 29th ultimo, the same day that the birthday of the Emperor of Russia was being celebrated, was received here with satisfaction, though no extra enthusiasm or excitement was visible; indeed the outward tokens of such a spirit were more absent than on occasions of similar fêtes, for the police having apparently neglected the usual strict orders, backed by fines, for illuminations, &c., and thus the inhabitants being left to their free will as regards such outlays, the town was more sombre than on previous public holidays of the sort.

Still I may venture to say, that of the various candidates more or less officially before the public, this election has undoubtedly in these parts obtained the most general sanction in popular opinion.

I have the honour to report that Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff passed through here this morning and immediately embarked on board the "Constantine" for Livadia, as it is said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 405.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 30. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have despatched to the Foreign Office this day the following telegram:—

"At the meeting of the Commission yesterday the frontier beyond Karaourgan was declared to be erased.

"I endeavoured to carry the proposition that, when carrying out on the ground the demarcation of the boundary according to the trace to be agreed upon here, the majority should decide in the settlement of questions of detail, but that important deviations might be referred. Turks supported me. I quoted proceedings of Servian Commission in support. Russian Commissioner, arguing that the Servian was an international Commission, refused his consent, but agreed to refer the matter to his Government. As references on petty details to Constantinople or St. Petersburg (from distant parts of Asia), would immensely impede progress of delimitation, I submit that Russian Ambassador in London might be moved to recommend this arrangement."

With regard to the question of Karaourgan, the President stated (*vide* Protocol) that neither the point west of Karaourgan, nor the subsequent trace to the south now existed on the map. Your Lordship will not fail to remark that the Commission found it difficult to get out of their mess, as will be seen from their plea that the red line was marked on the map by chance. I thought it unnecessary to pursue the subject further, but I might have remarked that the explanation offered would hardly account for the same red line being found on all the maps, including that officially submitted to the Turkish Government for approval. No! it was a bold but unsuccessful attempt on the part of the Russian Commissioner, who, it is needless to say, took the lead in all matters, to force on the British Commissioner part of a frontier traced to suit Russian ideas and wishes.

Your Lordship will perceive from the Protocol that, with regard to the frontier to be delimitated with the aid of the British Commissioner, our duties will be confined to preparing a project of frontier to be submitted for approval to our respective Governments. As my commission gives me full powers, I apprehend that I need only go through the form of submitting the project to your Lordship, provided it shows no deviation from the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin. I shall, of course, report to your Lordship any attempt on the part of either Russian or Turk to depart from that Treaty.

The proceedings of yesterday's meeting were marked by formality and order, as I had previously agreed with my Russian and Turkish colleagues as to the programme to be observed. The Protocols, drawn up by Captain Gill and Mr. Emilianoff from notes taken down by the former, will inform your Lordship of what took place on the occasion. The main points which I endeavoured to carry were, (1) that the opinions of each member were to be recorded on the Protocol as a guide to the respective Governments in forming a decision; (2) that the Russian map should only be accepted subject to verification, and that also we reserved the right to make maps of important points on a large scale if considered necessary; and (3) that the decision of the majority should decide in interpreting on the ground, in matters of detail, the project of frontier agreed upon here.

The two first points were carried, but the third was objected to by the Russian Commissioner. He, however, agreed to ask instructions from his Government. Should your Lordship have been pleased to adopt my suggestion of endeavouring to arrange through Count Schouvaloff that my proposition should be accepted, seeing that it is also supported by the Turks, a great saving of time and trouble, which endless references to Constantinople, St. Petersburg, and London will entail, would be effected.

With regard to the project of frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan, submitted to the Turkish Government by their Commissioner, Caratheodory Pasha sent my Memorandum on the subject to the Minister of War, who forwarded it to the Turkish Commissioners. The latter have called a meeting with their Russian colleagues for Thursday, at which they intend to reopen the whole question. If they only hold firmly to the views expressed in the Memorandum during the discussions which will ensue, but at which, of course, I have not the right to be present, the Turks will retain that territory which they would have otherwise lost, had their original project of frontier been accepted by their Government.

I have come to the conclusion that the Turkish Pasha, Ali Nizam, who is chiefly responsible for the trace of the frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan, erred in not looking out sufficiently for his country's interests, not from any corrupt motive, but simply from his being unable to appreciate the meaning of words and the punctuation of sentences employed in the Treaty, and allowing himself to be influenced in their interpretation by the opinions of the Russian Commissioners.

As I feel that all the Turkish Commissioners are with me, although I did not think so at the first meeting, I shall no longer press for their removal, more especially so as Caratheodory Pasha was desirous that the existing state of things should remain unchanged. In fact, I think it is better that they should remain on the Commission, as their united opinion will give weight to any proposition which I may have, or they may have, to bring forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 405.

Protocole No. 1.—Séance tenue au Séraskérat, Stamboul, le 5 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha,
Son Excellence Féyzi Pacha,
M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey.

Pour la Russie—
Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky,
M. A. Emélianoff.

Pour l'Angleterre—
Major F. C. H. Clarke,
Capitaine W. Gill.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha prend la parole ainsi: "Maintenant que la Commission va être reconstituée à cause de la présence du Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique, on doit procéder en règle et décider quelques questions préliminaires; telles que l'election d'un Président et la nomination des Secrétaires.

En outre, il croit de son devoir de déclarer que la Commission aura pour tâche d'étudier selon les instuctions de leurs Gouvernements respectifs et en conformité au Traité de Berlin le tracé de la nouvelle frontière entre la Russie et la Turquie en Asie Mineure à partir de l'ouest du village de Kara-Ourgan jusqu'à l'ancienne frontière de la Russie, et à proposer un projet de frontière.

M. le Général Stébnitsky parle en ces termes: "Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de vous proposer de confier à son Excellence Nédjib Pacha la Présidence des travaux de la Commission."

Ces paroles ayant été accueillies par l'assentiment empressé de tous les membres de la Commission, *son Excellence Nédjib Pacha* exprime sa vive reconnaissance pour l'honneur qui lui vient d'être faite et il accepte la Présidence.

Le Général Stébnitsky propose comme Secrétaire M. Emélianoff; *Major Clarke* demande aussi la nomination du Capitaine W. Gill en même qualité.

Ces propositions reçoivent l'assentiment unanime de la Commission.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha prend la parole: "La première question qu'on a à aborder est celle des pleins pouvoirs. Les Délégués Turcs n'ont pas reçu de leur Gouvernement le pouvoir de fixer définitivement la ligne-frontière; ils sont tenus seulement à exprimer leurs opinions et à soumettre à l'approbation de leur Gouvernement un projet de frontière."

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha se trouve d'accord sur ce point; il ajoute en outre que lui, Ali Pacha, et Féyzi Pacha n'ont pas des voix délibératives, mais qu'ils sont présents seulement pour exprimer leurs opinions personnelles, et que les vrais Commissaires sont M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey, M. le Général Stébnitsky, et M. le Major Clarke.

Le Major Clarke entend que la décision finale est réservée aux Gouvernements

respectifs, et que, quoiqu'il soit lui-même muni des pleins pouvoirs, il réserve aussi à son Gouvernement le droit d'accepter ou de rejeter le travail de son Commissaire.

Le Général Stébnitsky est d'accord sur ce point.

Le Major Clarke est d'avis que les opinions et les paroles de chaque membre doivent être mentionnées dans les Protocoles afin de guider les Gouvernements respectifs dans leurs décisions finales; car, selon lui, le procès-verbal ne doit pas être borné à une simple description de la frontière.

Cet avis est partagé de tous.

Le Major Clarke ayant reçu la permission du Président, donne lecture de la pièce suivante: "Excellence, à la première séance, après avoir vu la carte sur laquelle avait été tracé la ligne-frontière soumise par la Commission Russo-Turque à l'approbation de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, j'ai remarqué que non-seulement le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan y avait été fixé, mais encore la ligne-frontière y avait été tracée au delà de Kara-Ourgan. En outre, dans le procès-verbal qui accompagne la dite carte le paragraphe ayant rapport à cette partie de la frontière près de Kara-Ourgan est ainsi conçu: 'par la ligne de partage des eaux et des collines qui se dirigent vers le sud (la frontière), aboutit *au* point (pas à *un* point mais *au* point) indiqué sur la carte à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan en laissant Bardouz et Yéni-Keuy à la Russie.'

"Sous ces circonstances, comme ce point et cette partie de la ligne doivent être déterminés par les Représentants des trois Puissances: Russe, Turque, et Britannique, je me suis trouvé dans la position désagréable de me séparer de mes honorables collègues jusqu'à ce que cette partie de la ligne soit entièrement rayée de la carte.

"Avant-hier j'ai appris qu'une communication a été faite à notre Ministre par son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha que la délimitation de la frontière Asiatique s'arrête à Kara-Ourgan.

"Peut-être votre Excellence voudra bien y ajouter quelques remarques explicatives."

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha dit en réponse que dans les délibérations précédentes on s'est arrêté à Kara-Ourgan, mais comme chaque Délégué a exprimé son opinion et quelquefois même les membres de la Commission ont tracé des lignes sur la carte, il arriva que la ligne au delà de Kara Ourgan (dont vient de parler M. le Major Clarke) a été tracée avec un crayon rouge sur la carte employée par la Commission et soumise à l'approbation du Gouvernement Turc; mais il assure le Commissaire Anglais que cette ligne rouge n'était pas une ligne arrêtée par la Commission. Quant au point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan il n'était pas déterminé non plus, mais afin de donner une direction quelconque vers laquelle devait se diriger la ligne-frontière, le point en question a été choisi, mais indéfinitivement, et que par conséquent il reste un point à fixer.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha ajoute que non-seulement on n'a pas fixé le point, mais que même on n'a pas pu le faire; on a seulement choisi le point en question pour diriger la ligne-frontière, et que la Commission peut maintenant commencer l'examen de ce point.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky croit donc que la Commission pourrait commencer ses travaux.

Le Major Clarke, tout en exprimant la vive satisfaction que lui ont causée les explications données par son Excellence Nédjib Pacha, le Président, dit qu'il ne doute pas qu'elles seront aussi satisfaisantes à son Gouvernement.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha prenant la parole fait observer que la carte soumise à la Commission a été récemment faite sur une grande échelle et dressée par des topographes habiles. En outre, il exprime l'espoir qu'il sera facile à la Commission de déterminer approximativement la ligne-frontière dans les séances mêmes, et il demande l'indulgence des Commissaires pour leur expliquer le système dont on s'est servi dans la Commission précédente. On a suivi autant que possible le Traité de Berlin, et aux endroits où les indications précises manquaient ou bien n'étaient pas très-explicites, on a suivi le partage des eaux ou bien le cours des rivières; et on a généralement donné la préférence au premier, parce qu'il exprime mieux la division des communes, les propriétés particulières pouvant se trouver souvent sur les deux bords d'une rivière, tandis que cela arrive rarement en suivant les crêtes des montagnes.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha est parfaitement d'accord avec son Excellence Nédjib Pacha, que les crêtes sont préférables aux cours d'eau comme frontière. Quant à la manière de faire la démarcation sur les lieux, il affirme que dans la délimitation de la Bessarabie, quand le terrain était tout plat, on a creusé généralement une fossée et on a érigé des pyramides sur certains points, et sur les crêtes on a placé des pierres.

Le Major Clarke exprime son opinion que sans doute il faut déterminer sur les lieux mêmes les emplacements des marques de bornage, mais il croit que c'est plutôt la tâche des Puissances limitrophes de faire ériger les pyramides ou bien de creuser les fossées. Il désire savoir l'opinion de la Commission à cet effet.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky croit que la Commission doit d'abord fixer les places des marques de bornage et ensuite retourner afin de voir si celles-ci ont été dûment placées.

Tous les membres de la Commission se trouvent d'accord à cet égard avec le Général Stébnitsky.

Le Major Clarke, en abordant la question des cartes, dit que malgré l'exactitude des cartes Russes, elles peuvent être sujettes à des erreurs particulières; il observe qu'il y a des endroits où les indications ne sont pas très-claires, et qu'il y en a d'autres pour lesquels, selon lui, il sera nécessaire de dresser des cartes spéciales sur une plus grande échelle. Il désire savoir en outre si la Commission prendra pour base de ses délibérations la carte présentée par le Commissaire Russe.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha exprime son adhésion aux vues du Major Clarke.

Le Major Clarke croit qu'on puisse accepter la carte Russe comme base générale, mais qu'il faudra (comme il vient de le dire) dresser des cartes pour les points les plus importants sur une échelle plus grande.

Les autres Commissaires partagent cette opinion.

Le Major Clarke désire savoir comment il faut décider une question quelconque sur les lieux, lorsque les Commissaires ne seront pas d'accord. Sera-t-elle décidée par la majorité, ou bien sera-t-elle référée aux Gouvernements respectifs?

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky est de l'avis que s'il s'agit d'une grande divergence du tracé fait sur la carte, on doit se référer à la décision des Gouvernements respectifs.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha croit que la carte topographique Russe facilitera les décisions à prendre, et que peu de questions resteront à être réglées sur les lieux.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha fait observer que quoique la carte Russe soit dressée avec une grande exactitude, néanmoins il sera nécessaire de la vérifier. Quant à la question des décisions à prendre, il peut arriver qu'il y ait deux ou trois villages du même nom, en ce cas il croit qu'il sera du devoir des Commissaires de se reporter à la décision de leurs Gouvernements respectifs; mais si la question est de peu d'importance il faut donner aux Commissaires le pouvoir de décider sur les lieux, et il pense que les Protocoles doivent démontrer que ce pouvoir est décerné aux Délégués.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky partage l'opinion de son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha, et croit qu'avant toute action sur les lieux, il faut vérifier la carte.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha demande au Commissaire Russe s'il a les pleins pouvoirs sur les lieux.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky répond qu'il en a.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha est d'avis que si les Gouvernements acceptent la ligne-frontière qui sera proposée, les Commissaires doivent avoir le droit de faire des changements de peu d'importance sur les lieux, prenant en considération les intérêts locaux, mais pour les grandes questions ils doivent se référer à leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

Le Major Clarke exprime l'opinion qu'on doit décider par la majorité les questions de détail dans lesquelles les Commissaires ne seront pas d'accord sur les lieux.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky dit qu'il n'y a point d'échelle générale pour reconnaître les grandes questions et les petites questions, toute chose pouvant être envisagée sous différents points de vue et recevoir simultanément plusieurs degrés d'importance. Ceci est surtout applicable aux questions de frontière où les questions de détails même pourraient être appréciées différemment pour les raisons qui précèdent.

Il n'admet pas que les décisions sur les lieux soient basées sur le principe de majorité de voix; il préfère soumettre toute décision concernant n'importe quelle question de frontière de la compétence de la Commission à l'entente des Délégués, et les divergences aux Gouvernements.

Le Major Clarke est au contraire de l'avis qu'elles doivent être décidées par la majorité afin d'éviter les références continuelles aux Gouvernements, et il croit qu'on ne peut pas toujours espérer l'unanimité même dans les questions d'une moindre importance.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky pense qu'il n'y a pas lieu de croire à quelques difficultés qui pourraient empêcher la Commission de poursuivre les travaux avec succès; il est plutôt pour le contraire.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha pense qu'il ne sera pas difficile de décider quelles sont les questions d'une importance particulière.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky fait observer qu'il y a seulement deux Commissaires pour une section de la délimitation et qu'il y en a trois pour l'autre, et que si la décision est prise à la majorité dans la dernière section il y aura alors deux systèmes pour les deux sections de la même Commission.

Le Major Clarke dit que la Commission a été reconstituée; que maintenant il s'agit seulement de la question du travail de la nouvelle Commission, et que les Commisaires pour les deux sections se basent sur différents systèmes; il ajoute que dans la Commission pour la délimitation de la Serbie on a accepté la décision à la majorité.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky fait remarquer que la Commission pour la Serbie était une Commission Européenne, comme il est dit même dans le Protocole du Congrès de Berlin. Quant à la présente Commission il y est dit qu'il y aura seulement un Délégué Russe, un Délégué Ottoman, et un Délégué Britannique.

Le Major Clarke est de l'avis que cette Commission aussi est internationale, et qu'elle présente un parallèle à celle de la Serbie, où les décisions sur les questions de détails étaient prises à la majorité.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky prie M. le Président de lire le Protocole 18 du Congrès de Berlin où il est dit qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'envoyer une Commission Européenne pour faire des délimitations de frontière en Asie.

Le Président donne lecture des termes suivants du Protocole 18:

"Le Comte Schouvaloff fait savoir au Congrès. . . .

"Le Comte Schouvaloff répond qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'envoyer une Commission Européenne pour faire des délimitations de frontière en Asie.

"Aucune observation n'étant présentée au sujet de la délimitation en Asie, le Président déclare que l'accord intervenu est accepté par le Congrès."*

Le Major Clarke regrette que les Commissaires ne sont pas tombés d'accord sur cette question de détail.

Son Excellence le Général Stebnitsky ne peut pas consentir à changer les idées du Congrès de Berlin parce que ce n'est pas une Commission Européenne.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha dit qu'il est bien entendu que si les Délégués ne peuvent pas tomber d'accord sur les lieux, ils doivent se référer à leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha regrette que les Commissaires ne consentent pas à décider les questions de moindre importance par la majorité de voix; il ajoute ensuite que proprement dit cette question ne les concerne pas et qu'elle doit être réglée par les Délégués eux-mêmes.

Son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky fait observer que c'est une question de principe et qu'il ne peut pas y consentir.

Le Major Clarke ne la considère point comme question de principe, mais comme question de détails.

Son Excellence Féyzi Pacha est aussi de l'avis que les questions de peu d'importance doivent être décidés par la majorité.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha demande si le Général Stébnitsky aura la complaisance de parler à son Ambassadeur à propos de la question de majorité.

Son Excellence Général Stébnitsky promet d'en référer à son Ambassadeur, et maintient son opinion par rapport à la question de majorité et se déclare pour le principe d'entente.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha, tout en remerciant le Général Stébnitsky, ne peut pas s'abstenir de recommander le système de la majorité à ses honorables collègues.

La séance est levée à 3 heures.

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* Correspondence relating to the Congress of Berlin, with the Protocols of the Congress: Turkey, No. 39 1878, page 262.

No. 406.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Protocol of the 16th séance of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 406.

Protocole No. 16.—*Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le* 23 *Avril,* 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogoluhow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Chefket Bey,
Le Major Mehmet Bey,
Le Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 15 minutes.

Le Protocole No. 15 est lu et adopté.

Le Président, conformément à la décision insérée au Protocole No. 15, soumet à la Commission un projet de lettre au Doyen du Corps Diplomatique.

La Commission en approuve la réduction.

Le Président invite la Commission à poursuivre la discussion générale de la frontière des Balkans; M. le Commissaire de Turquie donne son avis dans les termes suivants:—

"L'Article II du Traité de Berlin reconnaît et établit la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre les frontières des Balkans de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Je suis d'avis que la Commission doit interpréter cet Article dans le sens le plus étendu, et fixer la délimitation de façon à permettre au Gouvernement Ottoman d'employer pour la défense de la ligne frontière le système dont l'adoption lui paraîtra le plus convenable.

"En restant dans les généralités, je me bornerai à indiquer à la Commission ce qu'il est, à mon sens, indispensable d'accorder au Gouvernement Ottoman pour satisfaire aux prescriptions de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin.

"J'estime qu'il est indispensable que la Turquie ait en sa possession tous les points stratégiques, les défilés et passes sur toute l'étendue de la chaîne des Balkans, et qu'elle puisse relier entre eux les points fortifiés par des voies de communication.

"Comme ces positions seront défendues par des fortifications dont on ne peut dès à présent préciser la nature et l'importance, il faudrait en outre concéder à la Turquie, une certaine étendue de territoire en avant, pour qu'elle puisse établir les ouvrages avancés jugés nécessaires à la défense des dits points.

"La nécessité de cette zone que je demande m'est démontrée par la forme même de la montagne dont le versant sud, très-escarpé, se prête mal à des mouvements de troupes.

"Les forces défensives doivent donc avoir des points d'appui sur la crête et en avant d'elle.

"La profondeur de cette zone frontière est évidemment à fixer d'après les besoins mêmes de la défense. Cette zone devra également s'étendre en deçà des crêtes du côté de la Roumélie Orientale; car, d'après le Traité de Berlin, les troupes Ottomanes doivent être échelonnées le long de la frontière, et il faut assurer leur approvisionnement, leur casernement, et leur campement, surtout pendant la mauvaise saison. On objectera peut-être que cette question est du ressort de la diplomatie, mais comme en définitive il s'agit de la frontière et de la zone qu'elle comprend, je pense qu'elle ne sort pas des attributions de la Commission de Délimitation.

"Telles sont, d'une façon succincte et générale, mes idées sur la défense des Balkans; celle-ci serait à mon sens complétement illusoire si les principes ci-dessus n'étaient pas admis."

Le Commissaire de Russie donne à son tour son avis:—

Comme le Colonel Orero, comme le Général Hamley, il considère le Traité de Berlin comme un document sacré. Ce Traité a fixé d'une façon très-nette la ligne-frontière, et les Représentants des Puissances Signataires l'ont tous tracée sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, de Démir-Kapu au Mont Kosica, selon la ligne de partage des eaux. Cette carte, bien que dépourvue d'un cachet officiel, prouve incontestablement l'entente des Plénipotentiaires sur la base du tracé. La tâche de la Commission ne consiste pas dans l'élaboration d'une nouvelle frontière, mais elle comprend deux genres de travaux: la Commission doit, en premier lieu, tracer la ligne de partage sur les feuilles des levés à grande échelle, et trouver cette ligne sur le terrain; il lui incombe, en second lieu, de rechercher si le terrain en deçà de la frontière de la Roumélie Orientale se prête à la défense de la dite frontière sur toute son étendue. Si les Plénipotentiaires qui étaient assistés par des officiers distingués de toutes les armées Européennes ont tenu à déférer la question à l'examen de la Commission de Délimitation, cela tient évidemment à ce que toutes les données nécessaires à sa solution ne pouvaient être fournies par les cartes existantes, et devaient être demandées à des études sur le terrain. Le tracé de la frontière s'écartera donc de la ligne de partage des eaux uniquement dans les points où celle-ci ne satisferait pas aux exigences de la défense.

Tels sont, selon le Commissaire Russe, les principes généraux qui doivent présider aux travaux de la Commission. Celle-ci en envisageant la défense de la Roumélie Orientale, ne doit pas non plus perdre de vue les forces et moyens d'action dont disposerait la Bulgarie pour prendre l'offensive. Les troupes en présence se trouveront placées dans des conditions essentiellement différentes; celles occupant la chaîne des Balkans du côté de la Roumélie Orientale peuvent établir toutes sortes de fortifications; ce droit est refusé aux forces occupant la montagne du côté de la Bulgarie. Les fortifications que les Turcs pourront élever et armer de pièces de fort calibre, commanderont une zone étendue du territoire Bulgare, et ainsi la frontière effective, c'est-à-dire la frontière tactique restera toujours au nord de la frontière politique. En raison des difficultés que présente le placement des pièces de campagne sous le feu précis de l'artillerie de position, les Bulgares ne pourraient guère diriger que des feux de mousquetevie contre les garnisons des ouvrages fortifiés. Il suffit donc de limiter à la portée directe du fusil l'écart possible de la ligne-frontière et de la ligne de partage des eaux.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow termine en disant qu'il ne se croit pas appelé à discuter le côté stratégique de la question, et moins encore à donner son avis sur la manière dont les forces armées qui occuperont la ligne-frontière de la Roumélie Orientale devront réaliser sa défense.

Le Président résume les trois opinions en présence:—

"Le Général Hamley entend ménager à la Turquie la faculté d'établir des fortifications sur tous les points nécessaires à la défense et lui donner en avant de ces fortifications un secteur de rayon assez grand. Son Excellence Tahir Pacha demande une zone de terrain continue, que serait en quelque sorte obtenue en menant une ligne tangente aux différents arcs des secteurs précités. Le Colonel Bogolubow adopte pour tracé de la ligne-frontière la ligne de partage des eaux, sauf dans les points où celle-ci ne satisferait pas aux exigences de la défense, et dans ce dernier cas il consent à porter la frontière jusqu'à une portée de fusil en avant de la ligne de partage."

La discussion s'engageant, *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* formule ses objections aux propositions du Général Hamley et de Tahir Pacha. Ces propositions impliquent l'une et l'autre la fortification de certains points, qu'une étude approfondie de la frontière permettrait seule de fixer. Mais d'après les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin cette fixation échappe à la Commission; il serait cependant utile que son Excellence Tahir Pacha indiquât les points qu'il a en vue. On ne saurait admettre que la possession de tous les points qui seraient déclarés par le Séraskérat nécessaires à la défense de la frontière des Balkans fût, nonobstant les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, attribuée à la Porte. Car, si le tracé de la frontière n'a pas été fixé d'une façon précise dans la grande chaîne des Balkans, il en est partout ailleurs différemment, et il n'est pas loisible à la Commission de s'écarter, dans ces parties, des indications nettes données par le Traité, même dans les défilés pour satisfaire aux nécessités de la défense.

M. le Général Hamley faisant observer que le Traité n'interdisait pas de donner à la défense un secteur en avant des défilés, *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* cite un passage de l'Article II du Traité: "la frontière suit la crête par Karnabad Balkan, Prisevica Balkan, Kazan Balkan, au nord de Kotel jusqu'au Démir-Kapu. Elle continue par la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan, dont elle suit toute l'étendue jusqu'au sommet de Kosica." En adoptant le mot "chaîne" au lieu de conserver l'expression "crête," les auteurs du Traité ont donné à entendre que peut-être la ligne de partage des eaux ne satisferait pas dans toute l'étendue du Grand Balkan aux nécessités de la défense; mais ils n'ont pas laissé percer cette crainte pour le Karnabad, le Prisevica, et le Kazan Balkan.

M. le Général Hamley interprète différemment les stipulations du Traité. A son sens la Commission n'aurait pas le droit de porter le tracé général de cette partie de la frontière sur une ligne de crêtes plus avancée que celle indiquée dans le Traité; mais la ligne générale admettrait dans les défilés des inflexions locales ayant pour but de donner à la Turquie un site à fortifier avec une zone autour des ouvrages. L'expression "crête" est elle-même loin d'être précise: le Traité a assujetti simplement le tracé de la frontière à passer par certains points, mais entre ces points il lui a conservé une certaine indétermination.

Sur l'invitation qui lui est adressée par *le Président*, *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* indique que par le mot "crête" il entend la ligne de partage des eaux, cette ligne passant par les centres des ensellements que la chaîne peut offrir. Il ajoute que les cimes les plus élevées du Balkan se trouvent au sud de la ligne de partage, et que, par conséquent, celle-ci assurerait généralement une bonne frontière défensive. Cependant, dans la chaîne du Grand Balkan il n'hésiterait pas à s'avancer, si besoin était, jusqu'à une portée de fusil, pour satisfaire aux exigences de la défense; mais la précision du texte du Traité relatif à la partie de frontière entre la Mer Noire et Démir-Kapu lui interdit de faire pareille concession dans cette partie.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp croit devoir faire une distinction nette entre les acceptions données aux mots "crête" et "ligne de partage." Le mot "crête" prête à une certaine ambiguïté tandis qu'il ne saurait y avoir de doute sur la signification du mot "ligne de partage." Les Plénipotentiaires ont employé concurremment les deux mots, mais comme ces mots ne sont pas synonymes, il est à croire qu'ils se sont servi du mot "crête," qui est un peu vague, dans le cas où ils ont eu tout particulièrement en vue de donner à la Turquie une frontière défensive. On ne verrait pas d'ailleurs comment, sans contrevenir à la logique, le Congrès aurait refusé à la défense dans le Karnabad Balkan le Prisevica, et le Kazan Balkan, les facilités qu'il lui accordait dans la chaîne principale des Balkans. Sans doute le Congrès a lié davantage la Commission Européenne dans la partie Orientale de la chaîne que dans la chaîne principale: il lui a cependant laissé une certaine latitude.

Après quelques explications complémentaires du Président sur les diverses acceptions topographiques du mot "crête," M. le Colonel Bogolubow croit que les différences pouvant exister en réalité entre le tracé par les crêtes et le tracé par la ligne de partage sont trop faibles pour justifier un plus long débat théorique: il se

réserve d'examiner dans chaque cas les deux solutions; et il déclare que s'il se ralliait à l'opinion de ses collègues, ce n'est pas qu'il pût jamais se croire autorisé à modifier le tracé donné par le Traité de Berlin, mais il profiterait de la latitude donnée par le mot "crête."

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp propose à la Commission de passer successivement en revue les différentes parties du tracé de la ligne-frontière, afin de restreindre le débat aux parties qui pourraient soulever des questions de principe sur lesquelles les Commissaires seraient partagés d'avis.

Le Président donne lecture du second alinéa de l'Article II du Traité jusqu'aux mots "gagne la crête à un point situé entre Tekenlik et Aïdos Bredza."

La Commission décide d'un avis unanime que le tracé de cette partie de la frontière, tel qu'il résulte du Traité, ne pourra donner lieu sur le terrain à aucune discussion de principe.

Le Président poursuit la lecture du second alinéa par ces mots: "Et la suit par Karnabad Balkan, Prisevica Balkan, Kazan Balkan au nord de Kotel jusqu'à Démir-Kapu." Il rappelle que la discussion précédente a accusé des divergences de vues entre les Commissaires sur cette partie de la frontière.

Le Commissaire Russe voudrait identifier la crête avec la ligne de partage des eaux, qu'il suffirait alors de déterminer sur le terrain; le Général Hamley et le Colonel Baron de Ripp admettent au contraire une interprétation plus large du mot "crête," et pensent que la Commission doit pour cette partie, tout aussi bien que pour le Grand Balkan entre Démir-Kapu et Kosica, prendre en considération la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre les frontières du Balkan de la Roumélie Orientale.

M. le Colonel Orero demande qu'on ne passe pas immédiatement au vote.

M. le Major Comte de Wedel insiste pour l'ajournement de la question, afin de prendre les instructions de son Gouvernement. La décision est renvoyée à une séance ultérieure.

Le Président achève la lecture du second alinéa de l'Article II du Traité. Il rappelle que le tracé de la frontière par la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan de Démir-Kapu jusqu'au sommet de Kosica, a particulièrement donné lieu à trois propositions. La proposition la plus large qui doit être la première mise en discussion est-elle du Commissaire Ottoman. Son Excellence Tahir Pacha réclame une zone continue en avant de la crête, zone dont il n'a pas d'ailleurs défini la profondeur.

Le Président appelle l'attention de la Commission sur les différences existant entre la proposition du Commissaire Ottoman et celles des Commissaires Anglais et Russe, et l'invite à les discuter avant de passer à un vote.

M. le Colonel Orero ne saurait concéder au Général Tahir Pacha tout le terrain qu'il réclame: cependant s'il trouvait les positions existant sur le versant méridional insuffisantes pour la défense de certaines des passes entre Démir-Kapu et Kosica, si la défense de celles-ci lui paraissait ne pouvoir utilement s'exercer sans la possession du col ou même d'une autre position en avant de la crête, on devrait à son sens donner le col ou cette position à la Roumélie Orientale. Le Commissaire Italien pense se trouver d'accord à cet égard avec les Commissaires Russe et Anglais.

Le Président fait observer que le Colonel Bogolubow n'entend pas même dans le cas envisagé par le Colonel Orero, porter la frontière à plus d'une portée de fusil au nord de la crête.

Quelques explications sont échangées entre M. le Colonel Orero, le Président, et M. le Colonel Bogolubow.

M. le Commissaire de Russie insiste sur les conditions différentes faites par le Traité de Berlin à la Turquie et à la principauté Bulgare, la Turquie pouvant seule élever des fortifications sur sa frontière; l'assaillant ne pourrait donc guère recourir qu'à des feux de mousqueterie. D'ailleurs, les études personnelles du Colonel Bogolubow sur la chaîne des Balkans l'ont amené à cette conclusion, que dans un rayon de 1,500 pas on trouverait toujours en avant des passes les positions envisagées en ce moment par la Commission.

Le Président ramène la discussion sur la proposition de son Excellence Tahir Pacha; personne ne demandant plus la parole, il déclare la discussion close et met aux voix la proposition ci-après:—

"La frontière entre Démir-Kapu et Kosica sera tracée de manière à donner à la Turquie une zone en avant de la crête de la grande chaîne des Balkans, d'une étendue variable, permettant au Gouvernement Ottoman d'élever des fortifications en tous points qu'il jugera convenable, de couvrir ces fortifications par des avancées, et d'établir entre elles des communications sûres."

M. le Major Comte Wedel motive son vote contraire par deux raisons. Il ne croit pas nécessaire de donner à la Turquie une étendue de terrain en avant de la crête sur toute la longueur de la chaîne, mais seulement à hauteur des passes. Il ne peut concéder à la Porte le droit de déterminer seule les points indispensables à la défense des Balkans.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp repousse la proposition de son Excellence Tahir Pacha pour la première des deux raisons formulées par le Comte Wedel.

M. le Commissaire de France estime, d'après les idées généralement admises, qu'il n'est pas nécessaire d'élever sur toute la longueur d'une frontière une ligne de fortifications. Il croit possible la défense des Balkans sans la possession d'une zone de terrain continue en avant de la crête. Il ne peut donc accéder à la proposition du Commissaire Ottoman.

M. le Général Hamley juge que la défense peut se contenter des positions demandées par lui. Il n'insistera donc pas pour lui donner une zone continue, se réservant de défendre sa propre proposition. Il vote non.

M. le Colonel Orero ne croit pas pouvoir donner au texte du Traité la large interprétation que lui donne son Excellence Tahir Pacha; il juge de plus inutile à la défense la possession d'une zone continue. Il vote également non.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow juge la proposition en discussion contraire au Traité de Berlin; car elle équivaut à transporter à une distance plus ou moins considérable au nord, la ligne arrêtée par les Plénipotentiaires, et à créer une nouvelle frontière. Il repousse donc la proposition.

La proposition de son Excellence Tahir Pacha est, par conséquent, rejetée par six voix contre une.

La Commission passe à la discussion de la proposition du Général Hamley, et cherche une rédaction qui puisse satisfaire les auteurs des autres propositions.

A ce moment, *son Excellence Tahir Pacha* demande à la Commission de vouloir bien laisser en suspens jusqu'au Samedi 26 la question débattue, attendu qu'il désirerait en référer à son Gouvernement, conformément à la décision prise par la Commission et insérée dans le Protocole No. 14.

La Commission accède à ce désir à l'unanimité.

Le Président lit alors le troisième alinéa de l'Article II du Traité. Il observe que le confluent de la Topolnica et du Smovskio-Déré, donné comme un point de la frontière, pourrait tomber en dedans ou en dehors de la zone de 2 kilom. de rayon accordée à la Roumélie autour de Petricévo, et demande si l'incertitude qui en résulterait pour le tracé de la frontière pourrait donner lieu sur le terrain à une discussion de principe. Tous les Commissaires s'accordent à considérer la question comme une question de détail.

Le Président passe à la lecture du quatrième alinéa de l'Article II. Les Commissaires sont unanimes à reconnaître que la fixation de la partie de frontière traitée par le dit alinéa ne peut soulever de questions de principe.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow croit pouvoir après cette étude sommaire de la ligne-frontière de la Mer Noire au Cadir-Tépé reproduire la question posée par lui à la séance précédente; sur quel point de la frontière la Commission dirigera-t-elle ses premiers pas? Il demande à ses collègues s'ils n'ont pas été instruits chacun par l'un des membres de la Commisssion d'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, des hautes raisons militant en faveur d'une prompte rectification des limites de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia. *MM. le Général Hamley, le Major Comte Wedel, et le Colonel Baron de Ripp* répondent affirmativement.

Le President constate qu'une démarche identique a été faite auprès de la plupart des Commissaires, et que tous sont disposés à la prendre en considération, en abordant le travail de la délimitation par cette partie de la frontière, pour le poursuivre avec la plus grande rapidité. Mais les levés remis par le Colonel Bogolubow s'arrêtent près de Velina Mogila; il y aurait lieu d'utiliser les services des officiers Anglais pour la topographie de la zone frontière entre cette hauteur et le Cadir-Tépé. Si ces officiers étaient envoyés d'avance sur le terrain, ils pourraient combler la lacune existante, et il serait loisible à la Commission de suivre toute la ligne-frontière du Cadir-Tépé à la Mer Noire.

Ces conclusions ayant été admises, *M. le Général Hamley* annonce qu'il enverra, aussitôt que la Commission le désirera, une brigade topographique sous les ordres du Major Ardagh, lever sur une largeur de 2 kilom. et à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{1000}$ la zone frontière entre Velina Mogila et le Cadir-Tépé. Il estime d'ailleurs que le départ de cette brigade n'est possible qu'après le reçu de la réponse de son Excellence le Prince

Lahanoff et du Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, indiquant les mesures prises pour faciliter et assurer les opérations de la Commission.

Le Président fait également observer que la cime du Cadir-Tépé doit vraisemblablement être encore couverte de neiges. Il invite donc le Major Ardagh à recueillir tous les renseignements nécessaires sur la situation climatérique de cette région de la frontière.

La séance est levée à 5 heures 25 minutes, et la suite de la discussion renvoyée au Samedi, 26 Avril.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) G. MARMIER.
JONES.
VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 407.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that during the past week I have dispatched telegrams to your Lordship in substance as follows:—

April 30, 1876.

(No. 8.)
The opposition made by the Russian Commissioner to my proposition of telegram No. 6 has now been abandoned, and he substituted another, which, being substantially the same, was carried unanimously.

That the vote of the majority shall decide all questions in future, was also carried unanimously.

Commission proposes starting the 12th May for frontier.

May 4, 1879.

(No. 9.)
Replying to your telegram No. 4:

Dans la partie de la frontière entre Démir-Kapu et Kosica, les mots du Traité de Berlin, Article II, paragraphe 2, "la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan" seront interprétés en le sens qui suit: en général, la frontière suivra la ligne de partage des eaux. Après un examen du terrain et des cartes, si la Commission voyait que, dans certains points les positions au côté sud de la crête ne sont pas suffisant pour la défense, on devra chercher ces positions sur la crête même, et aussi sur le versant nord, mais sans jamais dépasser les limites qui sont strictement nécessaires à une défense.

Cette depêche a aussi été envoyée a Lord Dufferin.

May 4, 1879.

(No. 10.)
The following proposition was accepted at the 19th séance:

"Dans le Karnabad, Prisevica, et Kazan Balkan, puisque la Commission est restreinte par le texte du Traité à suivre la crête de cette chaîne, dans le tracé de la frontière elle ne pourra jamais s'en écarter. Comme ligne-frontière elle acceptera donc la ligne du partage des eaux partout où la forme de la crête est bien marquée. Ailleurs la ligne-frontière pourra être avancée jusqu'à la limite nord de la crête, si la considération de donner à la Roumélie Orientale une frontière défensive le désire."

J'ai fait ajouter à cette proposition des mots comme suit dans le but de se conformer à la prescription de l'alinéa 11, Article II, du Traité.

On accepta cette addition.

(No. 11.) *May* 5, 1879.

Respecting my telegram No. 9.

Defensive position implies extension of frontier beyond it to distance securing it from molestation; consequently, wherever frontier-line is fixed along watershed, it will be because no defensive works are required, or because good position is found at sufficient distance in rear. Where position is required and none exists in rear, it may be sought on the watershed pushing frontier beyond it, or still farther on northern slope, with frontier again beyond it.

Proposition as accepted admits of all this at all points judged necessary by majority of the Commission, and completely fulfils Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 408.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Commission of which I am a member will leave Constantinople for Bourgas on the 12th instant, and may be expected to continue the work of delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, at the point on the Black Sea laid down in Article XIV of the Treaty of Berlin, about the 16th instant.

We were unable to leave Constantinople on the 5th instant, as the question of escort had not been decided, and certain of my colleagues had received instructions not to leave this until the subject had been definitely settled.

A satisfactory arrangement has been come to between the Russian and Turkish Governments about the escort, which, from Bourgas to the Valley of the Tundja, will be furnished by a Russian squadron.

It is expected that the work of the Commission will be much facilitated by the Russian Government placing at its disposal maps of the country through which the frontier-line will pass, to the scale of $\frac{1}{42,000}$th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

No. 409.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to send herewith, for your Lordship's information, a statement showing the actual money realized by the Minister of Indirect Contributions from the revenue collections of the capital and by remittances from the provinces on account of the sources of revenue administered by his department for twelve consecutive months ended on the 12th February last.

This statement gives the following results:—

									£ T.
Customs									1,797,704
Salt									965,051
Tobacco—								£ T.	
Droits d'entrée								354,824	
„ de consommation								689,388	
„ de vente								21,969	
								1,066,181	
Additional—							£ T.		
Excise, 3 months..							24,934		
Wrappers, 6 months							140,600		
							165,534		1,231,715
Spirits—									
Excise								117,994	
Duty on sales								33,680	
								151,674	
Additional—									
Excise, 6 months..								19,809	
									171,483
Silk									39,676
Fisheries (Constantinople)									96,256
Dues on weighments									2,059
Total, without stamps									4,303,844
Stamps									118,129
Total revenue under Administration of Minister of Indirect Contributions ..									4,421,973

The actual receipts from tobacco, if the additional tax is taken for an entire year, are at the rate of £T.1,447,109, viz.:—

	£ T.
Ordinary receipts	1,066,181
Additional excise—	
24,934 (3 months) × 4	99,728
And for wrappers—	
140,600 (6 months) × 2	281,200
	1,447,109

This rate has, however, been received in the depreciated paper money. In the current year four-fifths of the tax will be collected in copper money, or in low alloy coin, and the yield will no doubt be greatly affected by this consideration.

As I reported on the 28th February, the estimate of the tobacco tax for the current year has been taken at £T.1,000,000.

The demonetization of the caïmé will also affect the receipts from spirits and salt, the revenue from which will now be collected in the beshlik currency, as was the case before the issue of the caïmé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure in No. 409.

STATEMENT of Actual Cash Receipts in the Capital and Remittances from the Provinces on Account of Indirect Revenue for Twelve Months from the 13th February, 1878, to the 12th February, 1879.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Date.	Salt.	Tobacco.				Spirits.				Silk.	Fisheries.	Dues on Weighments.	Total.
		Droits d'Entrée.	Droits de Consommation.	Droits de Vente.	Total.	Droits de Douane.	Droits de Vente.	Droits de Fabrication.	Total.				
1878—February (1293) (1294)													
March													
April													
May													
June													
July													
August													
September													
October													
November													
December													
1879—January													
Total Capital													
Remitted by Régie— Ports													
Frontier													
Total													

PROVINCES.

Date.	Salt.	Tobacco.				Spirits.				Silk.	Fisheries.	Dues on Weighments.	Total.
		Droits d'Entrée.	Droits de Consommation.	Droits de Vente.	Total.	Droits de Douane.	Droits de Vente.	Droits de Fabrication.	Total.				
1878—February (1293) (1294)													
March													
April													
May													
June													
July													
August													
September													
October													
November													
December													
1879—January													
Total Provinces													
Remitted by Régie— Ports													
Frontier													
Total													

No. 410.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 14.)

Constantinople, May 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of the Report made by the Financial Reform Commission to the Sublime Porte on the estimates of expenditure for the current year.

This Report mentions, though not with the prominence that I should have wished, that the allotments for the heads of Army, Ordnance, and Navy are for an armament on a peace footing; and under the head of the Ministry of the Interior a sum of £T.250,000 (25,000,000 piastres) has been deducted from the estimates as being for extraordinary expenses connected with the late state of war.

This mode of treating the estimates necessitates an extraordinary budget, copy of an abstract of which I inclose.

	£T.	p.
The total of the ordinary estimate of expenditure, with the reductions proposed by the Commission, and excluding the charge for the portion of the debt, the service of which is at present suspended, amounts to ..	13,006,170	71
The amount of the Extraordinary Budget is	5,875,283	67
Total	18,881,454	38
The revenue is now taken at	14,285,820	00
Showing a deficit in the Estimates of the year of	4,595,634	38

This estimate, your Lordship will observe, depends on practical effect being given to the whole of the reductions proposed by the Commission, and which amounted, in round figures, to £T.5,350,000.

It is not known whether the practicability of carrying out these reductions is admitted, but it cannot be expected that their full effect should be felt in the Estimates of the current year.

On this account I think that £T.2,500,000 should be added to the deficit.

Another point referred to in the Report is the extent to which the current revenue has been alienated or anticipated, so as to be ineffective for the purpose of meeting current expenditure.

This amount I may state, though with considerable reserve, at £T.5,500,000.

Further allowance must be made for the extent of loss owing to the receipts of one-fifth of the general revenues in caimé.

In the Report, the amount of loss on this account is taken at £T.2,100,000, but I think £T.2,000,000 would prove a full estimate of the amount of this particular item of loss.

In the text of the Report a further loss is taken into account as due to the depreciated condition of the coinage, but this may be omitted, for although it would be an important element if the revenue were to be valued in sterling money, or by any external standard, it is of much less importance in a comparison with an estimate of expenditure a large proportion of which will be paid in the depreciated currency.

The total deficit for the year 1879-80 may be estimated as follows, exclusive of the service of the Debt now in abeyance :—

	£T.
Deficit on Estimates of the year, as given above, in round figures	4,600,000
Add for probable failure to carry out proposed reductions	2,500,000
,, revenue forestalled, and so rendered ineffective	5,500,000
,, loss owing to the receipt of one-fifth of general revenues in caimés ..	2,000,000
Total	14,600,000

The total deficiency on the account of the year may thus, exclusive of the service of the Debt in abeyance, be estimated at £T.14,600,000.

The amount required for the service of the Debt in abeyance is £T.13,388,406 22 p. If this be added, the full amount of the deficit of the year may, in round figures, be stated at £T.28,000,000.

The ordinary budget estimate of the Army was, for a regular effective force of 133,969 men, exclusive of the garrison artillery, borne on the Estimates of the Grande Maîtrise de l'Artillerie.

The extraordinary budget includes provision for 181,475 men of the first and second reserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 410.

Rapport sur les Prévisions de Dépenses de l'Exercice 1295 (1879-80).

APRÈS avoir terminé l'examen du budget des recettes de l'Exercice 1295 ('79-'80), la Commission s'est livrée à l'étude du budget des dépenses qui lui a été présenté par l'Administration.

Elle s'est trouvée, dès le principe, paralysée par la constatation du chiffre élevé des prévisions officielles qui atteignaient un total de 3,266,521,100 piastres ainsi réparti :—

	Piastres.	Piastres.
Service de dettes ajournées		1,354,167,122
Intérêts des dettes qu'il faut absolument servir	252,046,811	
Dotations	229,373,100	
Restitutions	575,000	
Prévision des dépenses des Ministères, et d'autres services ..	1,430,358,767	
		1,912,353,078
		3,266,521,100

La Commission ne pouvait utilement examiner en détail chacune de ces sommes, ni prendre sur elle d'en approuver la dépense. Son œuvre eût été nécessairement stérile puisqu'elle aurait elle-même conclu à un énorme déficit sans pouvoir proposer aucun moyen de le combler. Aussi, s'appuyant sur le montant de 1,428,582,000 piastres auquel ses prévisions de recettes l'ont conduite, la Commission s'est-elle attachée à faire rentrer dans les limites de cette somme les dépenses de 1,912,353,078 piastres mentionnées plus haut; elle a dû négliger dans son travail les 1,354,167,122 piastres prévues pour les dettes dont le service est malheureusement ajourné depuis quatre ans.

Les divers Ministères avaient élaboré, en effet, leurs budgets respectifs sur les bases qui leur étaient habituelles, dans l'ignorance absolu ou chacun d'eux se trouvait du montant des recettes dont le Gouvernement serait en mesure de disposer. Eclairée par ses propres travaux sur le chiffre probable des rentrées, la Commission a dû inviter ces départements à se renfermer dans le cadre que leur imposaient les nécessités du moment, chacun d'eux réduisant ses demandes proportionnellement aux encaissements que l'on espère effectuer, et de façon à ménager au Gouvernement, s'il était possible, un léger excédant de recettes.

La Commission a été unanime sur ce mode de procéder et elle s'est appliquée à déterminer les limites qui seraient assignées à chaque département. L'esprit de prudence qui l'a guidée dans ce travail sera démontré par l'analyse des états Ministériels que nous donnons ci-après.

Toutefois, avant d'entrer dans l'examen des différents Chapitres de dépenses, il convient d'exposer les motifs qui ont amené l'Administration à modifier les prévisions qu'elle nous avait soumises en Décembre dernier. Ces motifs sont les suivants:—

En premier lieu, la réception des pièces comptables relatives aux derniers mois de l'Exercice 1294 a permis d'apprécier plus exactement qu'on n'avait pu le faire, les dépenses probables de l'exercice en cours.

De plus, le département des finances n'ayant pas encore reçu au moment de la confection du Tableau d'ensemble les projets de budgets de certains Ministères, avait dû suppléer à cette lacune en reproduisant dans les comptes les allocations qui avaient été faites en 1294; mis en présence des documents qui lui manquaient, il a pu remplacer ces allocations par les crédits demandés pour l'Exercice 1295.

En troisième lieu la Sous-Commission chargée de l'examen préparatoire des différents budgets a razé des prévisions les allocations supplémentaires motivées par l'existence du caimé, et qui n'ont plus de raison d'être depuis le dernier Iradé concernant le retrait graduel de ce papier-monnaie.

Enfin, certaines dépenses qui figuraient indûment sur tels budgets Ministériels ont été mises à la charge des départements qui en avaient le service, simple transfert d'écriture qui n'a entraîné bien entendu aucune différence en plus ni en moins dans le total des dépenses.

Section I.—Dette Publique.

Chapitre 1er.—*Dette Extérieure.*

Ce service comporte une annuité de 798,913,384 piastres. Les intérêts et l'amortissement de toute la Dette Extérieure sont ajournés depuis quatre ans, sauf pour les emprunts ci-après.

Ceux de 1854, 1871, et 1877, qui ont pour affectation le tribut d'Egypte;

Et celui de 1855, garanti par la France et l'Angleterre ; à ce dernier sont attribués annuellement :

72,000*l.* solde disponible du tribut d'Egypte.

178,000*l.* (environ) à prélever sur le produit des douanes de Smyrne et de Syrie.

Le service des quatre emprunts sus-énoncés exige les montants suivants :—

	£	s.	d.
Emprunt 1854	99,487	9	2
„ 1855	249,457	7	2
„ 1871	229,737	14	6
„ 1877	280,622	18	4
	859,307	9	2

Soit, à 109½, 94,072,462 piastres.

Déduction faite de cette somme, le montant de la Dette Extérieure ajournée sera donc de 704,840,921 piastres.

Chapitre 2.—*Dette Générale,* 433,014,780 *piastres.*

(Ajourné.)

Chapitre 3.—*Obligation Roumélie,* 121,417,807 *piastres.*

(Ajourné.)

Chapitre 4.—*Garanties aux Chemins de Fer,* 24,615,114 *piastres.*

Ce chiffre comprend 15,326,500 piastres, garanti du chemin de fer de Roustchouk-Varna.

La Commission fait observer que cette ligne étant placée sur le territoire de la Bulgarie, la charge de la garantie n'incombe plus au Trésor Impérial. Le montant à prévoir et qui est également ajourné doit donc être ramené à 9,288,614 piastres, qui représente exclusivement la garantie du chemin de fer d'Aïdin.

Chapitre 5.—*Compte Courant de la Banque Impériale Ottomane (Intérêts et Commission),* 70,278,500 *piastres.*

(Ajourné.)

Chapitre 6.—*Service des Eshami-Djédidé,* 12,828, 422 *piastres.*

Chapitre 7.—*Séhims, Moukatas Timars, Ziamets,* 50,149,324 *piastres.*

Chapitre 8.—*Intérêts des Sommes Empruntées à la Caisse des Orphelins,* 6,996,602 *piastres.*

La Commission estime que les services compris dans ces trois Chapitres, et qui sont tous de nécessité absolue, doivent être continués par le passé.

En conséquence, elle admet les chiffres prévus par l'Administration.

Chapitre 9.—*Service des Obligations de l'Emprunt Forcé,* 13,000,000 *piastres.*

La Commission accepte cette somme bien qu'elle lui semble au-dessus de la vérité.

Chapitre 10.—*Retrait du Caïmé,* 75,000,000 *piastres.*

La Commission supprime cette prévision, le caïmé étant appelé à disparaître soit par voie de remboursement à 400 piastres, soit par la rentrée en papier, du cinquième des impôts, si le retrait total ne peut avoir lieu autrement. Elle tiendra compte plus loin de la perte que supporterait le Trésor dans le cas où le caïmé ne serait pas retiré en totalité, faute d'un emprunt lui fournissant les ressources nécessaires. Le Gouvernement appliquerait alors le dernier Décret relatif à la perception des impôts et qui autorise les contribuables à payer quatre cinquièmes en metal et un cinquième en caïmé à 400, en stipulant que ce caïmé serait détruit sur le champ.

Voici par conséquent le détail des sommes à servir sur la première section :—

	Piastres.
Chapitre 1er.—Dette Extérieure	94,072,462
Chapitre 6.—Eshami-Djédidé	12,828,422
Chapitre 7.—Séhims Moukatas Timars, Ziamets	50,149,324
Chapitre 8.—Intérêts des sommes empruntées à la Caisse des Orphelins ..	6,996,602
Chapitre 9.—Service des obligations de l'Emprunt Forcé	13,000,000
Total	177,046,811

Par suite, le montant ajourné s'élève à 1,338,840,622 piastres.

Section II.—Dotations.

Chapitre 1er.—*Liste Civile,* 108,040,500 *piastres.*

Ce Chapitre ne présente aucune modification par rapport aux années précédentes.

Chapitre 2.—*Affectations des Vakoufs,* 24,266,177 *piastres.*

Dans le Tableau général présenté en premier lieu par l'Administration des Finances, figurait comme déficit prévu pour l'Exercice 1295 une somme de 11,502,000 piastres, égale aux allocations des années antérieures, le budget rectifié reçu de l'Administrations des Vakoufs s'élève à 24,266,157 piastres comme déficit prévu pour l'Exercice 1295. Il résulte des explications données à la Commission, que le Trésor, en échange des biens vakoufs dont il a pris possession, a contracté envers cette Administration une dette annuelle d'environ 44,500,000 piastres. La Commission, tout en appréciant l'intérêt que mérite cette nature de créance, pense que dans la situation actuelle des finances il convient de ne pas dépasser les allocations des années précédentes. Elle réduit en conséquence la prévision pour l'Exercice en cours à 11,500,000 piastres.

Chapitre 3.—*Affectation du Hédjaz,* 18,498,803 *piastres.*

Cette somme se compose des subventions allouées aux villes saintes de la Mecque et de Médine, et des dépenses du Vilayet du Hédjaz ; elle a été détachée du budget du Ministère de l'Intérieur pour être comprise dans la section des dotations à laquelle elle se rapporte plus naturellement.

Chapitre 4.—*Dotations du Sénat et de la Chambre des Députés,* 12,500,000 *piastres.*

La même remarque s'applique au présent Chapitre qui figurait également sur le Budget de l'Intérieur.

Les Chapitres 3 et 4 ne donnent lieu à aucune observation.

Chapitre 5.—*Pensions,* 65,467,940 *piastres.*

Ce service, qui s'applique aux serviteurs civils et militaires de l'Etat est trop intéressant pour être laissé en souffrance.

Toutefois, et lorsqu'elle étudiera la question des réformes, la Commission aura soin de s'assurer qu'aucune pension n'est indûment payée. Pour le moment, elle admet comme exacte et justifiée la demande de crédit de 65,467,940 piastres.

La Section II se décompose donc comme suit :—

	Piastres.
Chapitre 1er.—Liste Civile	103,640,500
Chapitre 2.—Vakoufs	11,500,000
Chapitre 3.—Allocations du Hédjaz	18,498,803
Chapitre 4.—Sénat et Chambre des Députés	12,500,000
Chapitre 5.—Pensions	65,467,940
	216,607,243

Différence en moins, 12,766,157 piastres.

Section III.—Restitutions.

La prévision pour cette section, qui se réduit à un seul Chapitre, est de 575,000 piastres ; la Commission accueille ce chiffre sans discussion.

.. ..

.. Section IV.—Ministères.

Chapitre 1er.—*Finances.*

Le budget spécial de ce Ministère réclame 35,170,201 piastres, non compris les frais de l'Administration du cadastre évalués à 10,966,930 piastres, soit un total de 46,146,131 piastres.

La Commission pense que ce département doit restreindre ses dépenses à 41,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 2.—*Intérieur.*

Le budget de ce Ministère s'élevait à 234,356,420 piastres, mais comme il a été dit plus haut, nous avons distrait pour les reporter à la Section II, les affectations du Hédjaz ainsi que les dotations du Sénat et de la Chambre des Députés ; première déduction qui ramène ce chiffre à 203,357,626 piastres. On doit en retirer encore 25,000,000 piastres qui figurent dans ce Chapitre à titre d'allocation extraordinaire. Le budget ordinaire du Ministère de l'Intérieur se réduirait ainsi à 178,357,626 piastres, y compris les dépenses de l'Ecole de Médecine Civile, dont le montant est de 1,803,634 piastres.

La Commission est d'avis que ce chiffre peut être sensiblement diminué ; elle limite le crédit à ouvrir à 120,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 3.—*Ilmizé (Magistrature) et Justice.*

Ces deux services demandent pour l'année 1295 :—

	Piastres.
Le premier	20,916,670
Le second	54,100,000
	75,016,670

Le projet de budget produit tout d'abord par le Ministère de la Justice n'indiquait qu'un total de 44,730,500 piastres ; un second projet transmis postérieurement accuse une augmentation de 9,369,500 piastres.

La Commission ayant constaté que les sommes allouées ont été en—

	Piastres.
1290	46,261,000
1291	47,897,000
1292	47,320,500

propose de fixer les allocations de crédit pour l'Exercice nouveau à 45,000,000 piastres, dont 20,916,670 piastres pour l'Ilmizé et 24,083,330 piastres pour le Ministère de la Justice.

Chapitre 4.—*Affaires Etrangères.*

Ce département demande 16,223,453 piastres, déduction faite des recettes qui lui appartiennent.

La Commission lui faisant subir une diminution comme à tous les autres services, propose de borner ce crédit à 13,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 5.—*Guerre.* Chapitre 6.—*Artillerie.* Chapitre 7.—*Marine.*

Ces trois Ministères évaluent leurs dépenses probables pour l'année 1295 :—

	Piastres.
Guerre, à	525,500,000
Artillerie, à	145,148,180
Marine	83,864,091

Ne pouvant contrôler ces chiffres, la Commission n'est pas en mesure de les discuter ; au surplus, de même qu'en calculant les prévisions de recettes, elle a pris pour base de son travail une année normale, permettant à l'Empire de tirer de ses revenus tout le profit que comporte une période de paix et de tranquillité ; de même pour les dépenses, la Commission ne peut envisager que les exigences ordinaires d'une année sur le pied de paix.

Dans cet esprit, et se reportant aux prévisions de dépenses inscrites dans les budgets antérieurs, elle conseille d'accorder—

	Piastres.
Au Ministère de la Guerre	300,000,000
Au Ministère de la Artillerie	96,000,000
Au Ministère de la Marine	64,000,000

Chapitre 8.—*Instruction Publique.*

Le budget proposé s'élève à 11,817,850

La Commission serait désireuse d'accorder ce crédit à un département si digne d'intérêt ; c'est à regret et pour ne pas se départir de la ligne de conduite qui lui est imposée par les circonstances, qu'elle se voit forcée de lui faire subir une réduction.

Les sommes affectées à ce service étaient :—

	Piastres.
En 1290	12,500,000
En 1291	12,705,500
En 1292	14,103,000

La Commission suggère pour l'année 1295 le chiffre de 10,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 9.—*Travaux Publics.*

Les dépenses prévues sont de 7,836,530 piastres.

Ce département est de ceux auxquels la Commission voudrait accorder un crédit considérable, qui le mit à même d'améliorer les voies de communication et de développer ainsi les ressources économiques de l'Empire. Aussi, loin de songer à réduire le montant ci-dessus, la Commission par exception (et c'est la seule qu'elle se permette dans l'élaboration de ce budget) propose de le porter à 10,000,000 piastres. Un des Commissaires avait même mis en avant le chiffre de 50,000,000 piastres, qui a été jugé malheureusement inconciliable avec les nécessités du moment.

Chapitre 10.—*Commerce et Agriculture.*

Il est demandé un crédit de 4,694,440 piastres, chiffre qui implique une augmentation notable sur les demandes ordinaires de ce département ; les sommes allouées n'ont été en effet—

	Piastres.
En 1290, que de	2,598,000
En 1291	2,674,000
En 1292	2,422,000

La Commission limite le crédit à 2,000,000 piastres. A la suite de ces réductions la Section IV se détaille comme suit :—

	Piastres.
Ministère des Finances	41,000,000
„ de l'Intérieur	120,000,000
„ de la Justice (Ilmizé compris)	45,000,000
„ des Affaires Etrangères	13,000,000
„ de la Guerre	300,000,000
„ de l'Artillerie	90,000,000
„ de la Marine	64,000,000
„ de l'Instruction Publique	10,000,000
„ des Travaux Publics	10,000,000
„ du Commerce et de l'Agriculture	2,000,000
	701,000,000

Différence en moins, 393,705,371 piastres.

Section V.—Divers Services Spéciaux.

Chapitre 1er.—*Police.*

Ce service, qui concerne exclusivement la ville et les faubourgs de Constantinople, demande 33,112,280 piastres. La somme réclamée par la gendarmerie des provinces est de 207,155,000 piastres.

Grandes ont été à ce sujet les perplexités de la Commission. Il est à déplorer que l'exiguité des ressources ne permette pas d'asseoir sur des bases suffisamment larges les crédits destinés à assurer la sécurité publique. La Commission est forcée de réduire à 10,000,000 piastres le montant à consacrer à cette branche de services. Quant à la gendarmerie, qui est encore à l'état de formation et dont l'organisation demandera avant d'être définitive un certain laps de temps, on peut supposer qu'au début de ce service le montant à dépenser ne dépassera pas 80,000,000 piastres, chiffre auquel nous déterminons le crédit à ouvrir. Le montant alloué aux deux services s'élèverait ensemble à 90,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 2.—*Administration des Contributions Indirectes, &c., des Douanes.*

Le montant prévu est de 56,114,000 piastres.

Bien que ce chiffre n'ait rien d'anormal, il serait à souhaiter qu'on pût le réduire à 55,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 3.—*Administration des Archives.*

Le budget présenté en premier lieu portait 13,592,500 piastres. Invitée à l'examiner de nouveau, l'autorité compétente a réduit elle-même ses premières évaluations à 8,282,848 piastres.

La Commission, qui s'était montrée disposée dans le principe à allouer 10,000,000 piastres, adopte en dernière analyse et sur cette rectification, le chiffre de l'Administration.

Chapitre 4.—*Administration des Forêts et des Mines.*

D'après les états qui nous ont été produits par l'Administration, ce service n'avait requis les années précédentes :—

	Piastres.
En 1290, que	17,950,000
En 1291, que	20,185,000
En 1292, que	20,972,000

Pour l'Exercice 1295 il demande la somme de 32,487,800 piastres, augmentation qu'il justifie par la nécessité de développer l'exploitation des mines et forêts.

Si louable que soit ce désir, la Commission regrette de ne pouvoir y déférer, et se renfermant dans les limites des anciens budgets, elle conseille les allocations suivantes :—

	Piastres.
Pour les mines	10,000,000
Pour les forêts	6,000,000
Ensemble	16,000,000

Chapitre 5.—*Administration des Postes et Télégraphes.*

Cette Administration évalue à 36,410,093 piastres le montant de ses dépenses de l'année 1295.

Ce chiffre nous a paru susceptible de réduction ; nous constatons en effet que les sommes allouées ont été—

	Piastres.
En 1290 de	64,940,000
En 1291 de	42,742,000
En 1292 de	52,761,500

et nous nous arrêtons pour l'Exercice en cours à la somme de 30,000,000 piastres.

Chapitre 6.—*Administration Sanitaire.*

Les dépenses prévues sont de £T. 7,105,169.

Comme nous l'avons dit dans notre rapport sur le budget des recettes, cette Administration a un caractère international, et il n'est pas possible de modifier les chiffres qu'elle soumet à notre appréciation.

Nous admettons conséquemment son chiffre de £T. 7,105,169.

Les prévisions de la Section 5 se trouvent donc ramenées :—

	Piastres.
Chapitre 1.—Police (y compris la gendarmerie des provinces)	90,000,000
„ 2.—Contributions Indirectes et Douanes	55,000,000
„ 3.—Archives	8,282,848
„ 4.—Forêts et Mines	16,000,000
„ 5.—Postes et Télégraphes	30,000,000
„ 6.—Administration Sanitaire	7,105,169
	206,388,017

Différence en moins, 130,265,379 piastres.

La récapitulation générale des diverses sections donne un total de 1,300,617,071 piastres, décomposé comme suit :—

	Piastres.
Section I.—Dette Publique	177,046,811
„ II.—Dotations	210,607,243
„ III.—Restitutions	575,000
„ IV.—Ministères	701,000,000
„ V.—Divers Services Spéciaux	205,388,017
Total	1,300,617,071

	Piastres.
Le budget des recettes révisé par la Commission montre un total de ..	1,428,582,000
Celui des dépenses, abstraction faite des ajournements, s'élèvent à	1,300,617,071
Le Gouvernement aurait à sa disposition un excédant de	127,964,929

Cet excédant pourrait être considéré comme acquis si le caïmé venait à disparaître immédiatement, c'est-à-dire si la conclusion d'un emprunt fournissait les ressources voulues pour supprimer cette monnaie fiduciaire.

Mais il faut envisager aussi l'hypothèse où les projets d'emprunt étant ajournés ou même abandonnés, le seul moyen de retirer le caïmé serait l'application de l'Iradé du $\frac{8}{20}$ Mars dernier, aux termes duquel un cinquième des contributions publiques, les droits de douane exceptés, pourra être payé en papier-monnaie, à raison de 4 piastres papier pour 1 piastre métallique. Le Gouvernement Impérial s'interdisant dans cette éventualité l'emploi des caïmés apportés par les contribuables et devant les annuler au fur et à mesure de leur entrée, sacrifiant de la sorte un cinquième de ses perceptions pour encaisser le reste en monnaie métallique.

Nous avons établi qui les revenus se composaient de :—

	£T.
Tribut d'Egypte	765,000
Produit des Douanes	1,600,000
Autres rentrées tombant sous l'application de l'Edit du $\frac{8}{20}$ Mars	11,880,820
	14,245,820

Le cinquième de £T. 11,880,820 équivaut donc à £T. 2,376,164, soit en chiffres ronds, £T. 2,400,000.

Le sacrifice éventuel de cette somme aurait pour effet de convertir l'excédant espéré de £T. 1,279,649; et un déficit de £T. 1,120,351.

Un deuxième mécompte est à prévoir sur cette même somme de £T. 11,880,820, dont les quatre cinquièmes seront payés en métalliques, espèces de mauvais aloi, qui ont perdu jusqu'à 20 pour cent du temps où le caïmé jouait le rôle principal dans la circulation, et qui subissent encore un escompte de 10 pour cent aujourd'hui que la disparition du caïmé comme monnaie courante a fait hausser le marché des espèces en diminuant les moyens d'échange. Si nous supposons que la dépréciation sur les métalliques ne dépassera pas 10 pour cent, la somme à décompter de ce chef n'atteindra pas moins de £T. 948,000. En y joignant la moins-value probable des médjidiés d'argent encaissés à la douane ou dans les autres services nous serons conduits à évaluer approximativement le déficit à un total de £T. 2,200,000. Enfin, et pour ne rien omettre, nous ne saurions nous dispenser de faire ici une dernière remarque.

Il nous a fallu négliger dans l'évaluation des dépenses à la charge du Trésor un élément de comptes important: les prélèvements des recettes consentis en réglement d'anciennes créances ou de prêts gagés sur les revenus nouveaux. De pressantes nécessités dérivant principalement de la situation des affaires politiques, ont induit le Gouvernement à anticiper sur une notable partie des perceptions fiscales, en les aliénant successivement au profit des tiers qui lui en avançaient le produit. C'est ainsi qu'il a disposé, entr'autres recettes appartenant à l'Exercice en cours, de la taxe des moutons, des dîmes de céréales dans plusieurs vilayets, des rentrées des phares et des ponts; qu'il a même engagé les douanes et les salines jusqu'au 31 Décembre, 1880. Nous n'avons pu faire figurer dans les écritures du budget ces emplois de revenus, expédients de trésorerie fâcheux, mais inévitables, et que l'état de crise tend malheureusement à perpétuer.

Constantinople, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1879.

(Signé) OHANES TCHAMITCH.
E. F. HARRISON.
TRICOU.
M. H. FOSTER.
E. MERCET.

(Les autres 4 membres ont signés sur le texte Turc.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 410.

BUDGET Extraordinaire pour l'Année 1295.

	Hommes.	Piastres.
Guerre—		
Appointements et frais des officiers de tous grades	3,182	27,079,323½
Soldes et frais des sergents et soldats	178,293	386,750,529
Ambulances	..	14,953,080
Médicaments, literies, et frais divers des ambulances	..	15,000,000
Rations des chevaux de convoi (13,980 chevaux)	..	18,369,720
Prix de 1,748 chevaux à acheter à 2,000 piastres	..	3,496,000
Harnois	..	8,400,000
Frais de chemins de fer	..	9,324,000
Nolis	..	7,500,000
Frais de route	..	2,500,000
Appointements des commandements de Beschiktach, de Corsova et des corps d'armée en campagne	..	150,000
Appointements supplémentaires des officiers en service aux stations des chemins de fer. Appointements des secrétaires—division militaire	..	120,000
	181,475	496,817,852½
Marine—		
Solde, habillements et rations des marins réservistes	4,361	11,230,017
Nourriture et médicaments des malades	..	223,690
Salaires des ouvriers	..	5,000,000
Fourniture pour la réparation des bâtiments de la marine Impériale	..	8,720,000
Frais de machine des bateaux à vapeur et des fabriques	..	23,000,000
	4,361	48,173,707
Artillerie—		
Munitions demandées par le Département de la Guerre	..	5,043,332½
Cartouches	..	12,463,475
		17,506,807½
Dépenses extraordinaires civiles déduites du budget de l'intérieur	..	25,000,000
Total général	185,836	587,528,367

No. 411.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I arrived at Belgrade on the 4th instant.

The Commissioners representing France, Germany, Russia, Austria, and Italy have now arrived at Belgrade, and the Turkish Commissioner is on his way to Nisch, viâ Salonica.

The British Commission leaves Belgrade to-day for Nisch, and will arrive there on the 10th instant. The French, German, Russian, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners propose to leave Belgrade on the 10th instant, and they will probably arrive at Nisch on the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 412.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 431.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 16, 1879.

CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT telegraphs as follows, dated to-day:—

"Mr. Longworth telegraphs from Larissa as follows:—

"'Strong proof reaches me that above 200 insurgents—not brigands—had been

in Tricalla district, mostly consisting of Greek soldiers. In two encounters 90 of them killed and 5 wounded; of Turkish troops, 113 killed and 52 wounded.'"

No. 413.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 432.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 16, 1879.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has authorized me to say that, in his personal opinion, Aleko Pasha should be directed to consult Commissioners on all matters of importance, and that instructions to this effect should be sent to them by their respective Governments, who, he thinks, should come to an understanding on the subject before the Commission meets at Philippopolis. He said that he was about to telegraph to this effect to his Government. However, on my representing the importance of the Commissioners going to Philippopolis without loss of time, he did not make any objection, observing that the Russian Commissioner was ready to leave.

No. 414.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 182. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 16, 1879.

IT is most desirable that a great pressure should be used for razing the fortifications of Varna, under Article XI of the Treaty. This would enable Porte at any time to land troops there, and give them a greater hold both on the Principalities and the province than even the Balkan garrison. I have special reasons for making this suggestion at this moment.

No. 415.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May* 16, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 59, French Minister for Foreign Affairs received from French Chargé d'Affaires a report of the conversation mentioned in Sir H. Layard's No. 425 to you. In answer to it, French Minister telegraphed to Chargé d'Affaires that there was no objection to Commissioners preceding Aleko Pasha at Philippopolis, and that in case of any disagreement between them and Aleko Pasha, the matter might be referred to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

The French Minister presumes that the Commission must be by this time on its way to Philippopolis.

No. 416.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1879, 3·10 P.M.

YOURS 181. The sooner Aleko and the Commission are in Philippopolis, the more chance we shall have of procuring early evacuation. The Russian Ambassador talks of completing early in July, but will not pledge himself.

No. 417.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1879, 4·25 P.M.

PLEASE communicate to Captain Sale following message in reply to his of the 8th instant:—

"With reference to recent difficulty as to the island, we cannot form any confident opinion here; but it will be better to adhere as closely to the text of the Treaty as can reasonably be done."

No. 418.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 289.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 208 of the 11th instant, in which you enclose a copy of a note from M. Depretis, stating that the Italian Government had made known at Constantinople their assent to the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg to the Throne of Bulgaria, but suggesting a doubt whether the assent of the Powers should not be signified in some collective act, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government believe that such assent has been given by the Powers individually, and that it is therefore unnecessary to raise any question tending to delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 419.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 242.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram No. 181 of yesterday's date, I have this day informed you by telegraph that the endeavours of Her Majesty's Government to obtain the early evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian troops would be much aided by the speedy arrival at Philippopolis of Aleko Pacha and the European Commission for the organization of the province.

Count Schouvaloff talks of the evacuation being completed early in July, but will not pledge himself to this effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 420.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram of the 8th instant, I have this day informed you by telegraph through Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Scutari that, as Her Majesty's Government are unable to form any confident opinion as to the merits of the difficulty which has arisen in the Montenegrin Boundary Commission with regard to the island of Gorica Plac, they consider that the best course to pursue will be to adhere as closely as can reasonably be done to the text of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 421.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 307.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1879.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador stated to me to-day that he had communicated to his Government my objections to the delay which Prince Battenberg thought of interposing between his nomination to the Princedom of Bulgaria and his assumption of power, by making a visit to the Courts of all the Great Powers. He had, however, he said, been informed by his Government, in reply, that three Powers, whom he did not name, had consented to this arrangement; and that, as a matter of fact, Prince Battenberg had already started on his projected tour.

I expressed to Count Schouvaloff my great regret at a violation of the Treaty of Berlin, which, though small in itself, was not justified by any necessity; but I said that, of course, if Prince Battenberg came into this part of Europe, Her Majesty's Government hoped that he would not omit to visit England.

His Excellency called my attention to the point that the interim administration now conducted by Prince Dondoukoff was conducted under the directions and by the delegation of Prince Battenberg, and that, therefore, if there was any breach of the Treaty, the responsibility lay with him, and not with the Emperor of Russia.

I am, &c,

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 422.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 177.)

St. Petersburgh, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I CALLED this morning by appointment on Prince Gortchacow to pay him my official visit as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Earl of Dufferin.

His Highness received me with great cordiality, and was kind enough to say that he would always be happy to receive me, without the formality of my asking for an audience, whenever I might desire to speak to him.

Prince Gortchacow expressed himself as sincerely gratified at the improved nature of the relations between Great Britain and Russia; and added that, while also claiming a certain amount of credit for himself, it was owing to the broad statesmanlike views, the great tact, and the conciliatory manner of the Earl of Dufferin that so many of the difficulties in the way of a good understanding had been already overcome.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 423.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 532.)

Paris, May 16, 1879.

My Lord,

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instruction, I spoke this afternoon to M. Waddington in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 661 of the day before yesterday, on the subject of the Greek law respecting the admission of children of the Greek Church to schools of other denominations.

M. Waddington said that he entirely agreed with your Lordship in thinking that effective securities for religious liberty must be provided for the inhabitants of any territory that might be transferred from Turkey to Greece, in virtue of the action of the Congress of Berlin.

It seemed, indeed, to him that there could not be the slightest doubt on the subject, and he begged me to inform your Lordship that, in his opinion, it would be proper that the Convention, by which such territory was ceded, should contain an express clause, providing that the inhabitants should enjoy the full benefit of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin concerning religious liberty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 424.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 17.)

M. l'Ambasadeur,

Constantinople, le 23 Avril, 1879.

PAR ma dépêche Circulaire du 13 Mars, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer un Rapport de notre Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie relatant les irrégularités qui se sont produites lors de l'élection des Députés siégeant à l'Assemblée des Notables réunie à Tirnovo.

Aujourd'hui, je crois devoir signaler à l'attention de votre Excellence les objections que le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff soulève à l'admission des Muftis de la Principauté au sein de l'Assemblée Bulgare.

Les Muftis de Roustchouk, de Varna, de Tirnovo, et de Sophia s'étant absentés de leurs postes, Pertew Effendi s'était adressé, sur les instructions de la Sublime Porte, au Commissaire Impérial Russe pour obtenir que les Gouverneurs de ces quatre départements reçussent l'ordre d'inviter la population Musulmane à désigner leurs remplaçants, conformément aux prescriptions du culte Musulman, sauf au Gouvernement Impérial de faire procéder à leur confirmation aussitôt que leurs noms lui seront communiqués.

Le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff accueillit favorablement cette démarche; mais il s'opposa en principe à l'admission des nouveaux Muftis au sein de l'Assemblée de Tirnovo pendant la Session actuelle, en se basant sur ce que l'Assemblée est en plein fonctionnement et que la liste des Députés est déjà close.

Or, l'admission des Muftis à l'Assemblée Nationale Bulgare leur étant acquise de plein droit au même titre que les Métropolitains, il est évident qu'ils peuvent s'y présenter à n'importe quel moment.

Pertew Effendi n'a pas manqué de faire ces observations à M. le Commissaire de Russie; cependant celui-ci, tout en reconnaissant que notre demande était aussi légale qu'utile aux intérêts des populations Musulmanes, n'en a pas moins persisté dans son refus.

La question en est restée pour le moment là, et je vous prie de saisir la première occasion pour entretenir sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 425.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord,

May 15, 1879.

WITH reference to the dissertation on the ethnology of Epirus, published in the "Transactions of the Geographical Society of Berlin," a copy of which I had the honour to leave with your Lordship during the audience you accorded to me on the 9th instant, and besides the article on the same subject published in the current number of "Macmillan's Magazine," which, as I had the honour to state, is an impartial exposition of the case at issue, I now beg to inclose the principal portion of a letter addressed by Dr. Kiepert, of Berlin, to a friend in London, with authority to make use of the same.

One of the works to which Dr. Kiepert refers is the "Albanische Studien" (Jena, 1858), of Herr J. G. von Hahn, for many years Austrian Consul in Epirus, and now universally recognized as an authority on Albanian nationality and language. I beg to append, in a separate paper, the extracts from this classic work indicated by Dr. Kiepert.

I further beg leave to inclose a copy of the Declaration signed by seventy-three of the most influential Epirotes established at Constantinople, and published in "La Turquie," the recognized semi-official organ of the Turkish Government. As the arguments therein used and the statements made are all data furnished by the Sublime Porte itself, there is reason to hope they will not now be contested by the Turkish authorities.

Finally, I submit to your Lordship a pamphlet entitled "Gli Albanesi o l'Epiro," and recently published in Rome by the Delegates who faithfully and authoritatively represent the inhabitants of that province, and who, unlike the self-appointed and

self-styled Albanian Delegates, are neither officials nor stipendiaries of the Porte, nor do they claim to speak on the condition or on the feeling of a country which is not their native land.

The information contained in these documents, coming as it does from divers and independent sources, as well as the data and explanations already furnished from other quarters, will, I venture to hope, suffice to set at rest the dispute as to the nationality and feeling of the vast majority of the population of Epirus and Janina—a dispute which not only is unreal, but which evidently presumes on an ignorance of scientifically ascertained facts, and of numbers within the reach of all who desire to obtain them from statistics published by the Porte itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 425.

Portion of a Letter written by Dr. Kiepert, from Berlin, on May 3, 1879.

I GUESS that the most decisive argument in favour of the Greek pretensions to extend the frontiers of their dominion over the countries now subject to Ottoman rule, which they maintain to be inhabited by an overwhelming majority of Greeks, is to be found in the testimonies of enlightened Europeans of a nationality not subjected to the suspicion of any partiality in this question, viz., of Englishmen and Germans; any assertion of Frenchmen or Italians, or Greeks themselves, being not free from such a suspicion. Now all the testimonies I could find in the works of those few travellers who, since the beginning of this century, have given us valuable information on Epirus, are in favour of the Greek assertions. . . . Almost all these testimonies are to be found in authors of the first half of this century; therefore, from a period when the now so acute question of political importance of nationalities was not yet awakened, Since that time things seem to have been altered only in favour of the spreading of Greek language towards the north, and of its ascendancy in the mixed districts.

Inclosure 2 in No. 425.

Extracts from Hahn's "Albanische Studien," Jena, 1858.

P. 14.—THE territory where only Greek is spoken stretches from the coast of the Gulf of Arta in a northerly direction. The towns of Janina, Arta, and Prevesa belong to it. In these towns even the Mahommedan part of the population speak the Greek as a mother-tongue. The people inhabiting the narrow tract of country along the coast (of the Ionian Sea) speak both languages (Greek and Albanian); both are learnt together by the children in the familiar use.

P. 17.—In all the above-defined country there are Mahommedans to be found only in the greater towns, viz., at Janina, Arta, and Prevesa, where they form only a minority, consisting principally of tradesmen and artisans, who form a sort of clientcy to a small number of aristocratic families, formerly very wealthy, but now almost all overwhelmed by debts. These families are the only who can be considered as representatives of the pure Albanian element by descent, but not even all by language.

P. 36, note 73.—The family language of the foremost aristocratic Mahommedan houses of Janina is the Albanian, but they do not number more than about a dozen. The Mussulman population of Arta is much inferior to that of Janina in both points, number and wealth.

P. 323.—The government of the purely Albanian districts had never much attraction for men of other nations (viz., Turks), and was therefore left by the Porte to native Chieftains. For the districts, however, inhabited by Greeks, as the Pashalik of Janina, another practice was adopted by the Ottoman Government, and Ali Pasha seems, indeed, the first exception of this rule of not employing native Albanians.

In the preface to the second part of the work, containing an Albanian grammar and dictionary, the author says:—

"The author compiled this portion while learning himself the (Albanian) language; his method could not be other than theoretical, on account of the difficulty of finding occasion to practical exercise (of the Albanian tongue) in a city so purely Greek as Janina."

Inclosure 3 in No. 425.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 26, 1879.

Declaration.

NOUS recevons avec prière d'insertion la déclaration suivante, signée par soixante-treize membres de la colonie Epirote de Constantinople:—

"Les Epirotes soussignés ont pris connaissance d'une série d'articles, signé 'Wassa Effendi,' parus dans le journal 'la Turquie,' et traitant de leur pays.

"Ils ont remarqué avec peine le parti-pris de ces articles qui veulent établir on ne sait quelle distinction entre les Grecs des autres contrées et les Epirotes.

"Ils ne peuvent croire que Wassa Effendi se soit réellement trompé au point de prendre l'intérêt naturel qu'ils portent, et ont porté, de tout temps aux populations Albanaises pour autre chose qu'une affection fraternelle née de la communauté d'origine et d'intérêts qui existe entre tous les Grecs et les montagnards d'Albanie.

"Les Soussignés ne veulent pas examiner à quels motifs ou à quelle inspiration Wassa Effendi a obéi en soutenant une thèse dont sa connaissance des pays, des hommes, et des choses a dû lui faire comprendre l'erreur et le mal fondé.

"Mais ils penseraient trahir la cause de la vérité en s'abstenant de démontrer cette erreur et ce mal fondé, à ceux qui, étrangers à la question, trop loin ou trop mal placés pour voir, pourraient se laisser aller adopter les théories extraordinaires que Wassa Effendi a été chargé de soutenir.

"Cette démonstration se fera d'elle-même en deux mots, et par deux faits.

"Les Soussignés, en effet, affirment (et il faut que le bouleversement des idées soit bien profond pour que pareille affirmation devienne nécessaire), ils affirment que la population de l'Epire est absolument Grecque, quoi qu'en puisse dire Wassa Effendi.

"Ils invoquent à l'appui de leur affirmation la statistique officielle de la population mâle de l'Epire établie par les autorités Ottomanes. Cette statistique sera peu suspecte de partialité en faveur des Grecs:—

Districts.	Greeks.	Musulmans.
Janina	38,758	2,018
Arta	16,541	638
Prevesa	4,683	572
Paramythia	4,461	1,953
Parga	2,048	471
Philiates	12,947	9,251
Pagogiani	9,215	515
Radowitzi	1,000	..
Total	89,653	15,218

"Ils citeront encore l'extrait suivant du numéro du 2 Février, 1877, du 'Journal Officiel Ottoman' de Janina. Cet article a paru avant les revendications officielles de la Grèce, au moment où il était question d'intrigues Slaves en Epire et en Thessalie:—

"'L'Epire n'oublie jamais qu'elle est la Grèce primitive, la première station de l'Hellénisme où la religion Grecque et les lettres Grecques sont nées, et se sont répandues de nouveau sur toute la Grèce [cette phrase est soulignée dans le texte]. L'Epire n'oubliera jamais son oracle vénéré de Dodone, l'histoire sacrée de son passé. Il est puéril pour le Panslavisme (lisez Albanisme) de s'imaginer qu'il parviendra à réaliser ses projets dans cette terre vierge . . . . de s'imaginer qu'il pourra réussir en Epire, dont les habitants appartiennent à la même race, à la même nationalité, une et indivisable.'

"Les Soussignés croient qu'en reproduisant les déclarations mêmes du Gouvernement Ottoman, dont Wassa Effendi est l'employé, ils ont suffisamment refuté ses théories fantaisistes, et par là, accompli leur tâche."

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 426.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 74. Very Confidential)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 16, 1879.*

THE General directing the movement of the military trains for the return of the troops told me to-day that his instructions are to make arrangements for return of all the army of occupation by the 27th June. He assured me he would be able to do it.

No. 427.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 433.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 17, 1879.*

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, Russian Ambassador's suggestion is that Aleko should be obliged to consult Commission upon all matters relating to execution of Organic Statute.

No. 428.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 17, 1879, 4·5 P.M.*

PLEASE communicate to Sir H. Wolff the following figures which have been received from Mr. Plunkett:—

[See Mr. Plunkett's No. 73.]

No. 429.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 17, 1879, 5 P.M.*

PLEASE communicate to Sir H. Wolff the following figures which have been received from Mr. Plunkett:—

[See No. 426.]

No. 430.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 267.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 17, 1879.*

THE German Ambassador spoke to me to-day with reference to the journey of Prince Battenberg.

He said he understood that the Russian Government professed to have the assent of three Cabinets to this journey, and the consequent delay. He could not imagine which these three Cabinets were. He had not received any positive information from his own Government, but in its present relations towards Russia he thought it exceedingly improbable that the Cabinet of Berlin was one of the assenting Cabinets.

I said that I was as ignorant upon the question as he was. I knew that the Government of Austria had assented, but I was not aware that any other Government had done so. It was possible, however, that the Russian Government might have counted themselves, and might have obtained the assent of the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 431.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 268.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 17, 1879.*

IN the course of some observations which Count Münster made to me to-day upon the subject of Greece, his Excellency observed that the Emperor of Germany took a very lively interest in the negotiations, and he asked to be informed of their exact state at the present moment.

I told him that Her Majesty's Government had accepted the propositions of the French Government, with the reservation that they thought that the action of the Ambassadors at Constantinople would be more effective if they were not fettered by the formalities of a Conference.

I added that I understood that the same view had been taken by the Government of Austria.

His Excellency did not appear to dissent from this impression. He said that the real question at issue was upon what line of frontier the Powers should agree. He wished to know whether the views of Her Majesty's Government in opposition to the cession of Janina to Greece were definitive.

I replied in the affirmative. I said that I thought it inexpedient, as well in the interests of Greece as in those of Turkey, that Janina should be alienated from the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 432.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, May 6, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to draw your Lordship's attention to a letter which has appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" of the 10th April (copy of which is herewith enclosed) entitled "The new Crisis in Bosnia," by Mr. Arthur Evans.

The agrarian question in the newly-occupied provinces, as your Lordship will observe by the enclosed letter, and by my former despatches on the subject, will, from its complicated nature, cause the Austro-Hungarian Government the greatest difficulties for some time to come, if, indeed, it can ever be settled so as to satisfy both landlord and tenant, especially as the latter, in many instances not without reason, himself lays claim to the soil; asserting that what for some years back he has been in the habit of tilling was formerly owned by his ancestors, and within the memory of man unlawfully appropriated by the Beys. To these pretensions the Government, for reasons of their own, appear to turn a deaf ear, so that the Rayahs, whose only complaint at one time was excessive taxation, and the brutality with which it was enforced, now show a determination not to yield either to the Austrian Government or to the Bey what they consider themselves entitled to, and for which, as they assert, they have shed their blood during nearly four years.

Mr. Evans, who is still a very young man, takes a very one-sided view of the question. Though actuated by the most honourable and charitable motives, his information is not always to be relied upon, and his attacks on Austrian officials, consequently, often unwarrantable.

The cause which he now has espoused, moreover, renders him liable to be too ready a listener to complaints on the part of those whose welfare he has so much at heart, though the distress to which he has been an eye-witness during his last charitable expedition into Bosnia has been fully confirmed by information I have received on the subject from that locality.

In the Herzegovina grain for food is exclusively distributed to the Rayahs by the Austrian Government, but sowing seed is still withheld, and the season being now so far advanced, little hope is entertained that the last named article, when supplied, will be of any practical use. The distress next winter, consequently, may be as appalling as that described by Mr. Evans in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 432.

Extract from the "Manchester Guardian" of April 16, 1879.

No. 433.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 18.*)

(No. 12. Political. Confidential.)

Ragusa, May 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of another letter by Mr. Arthur Evans to the "Manchester Guardian" of the 26th April, entitled "The Austrians in Herzegovina," in which he states the aspect of affairs in the neighbouring province to be more favourable than in Bosnia. But Mr. Evans continues his violent attacks on Austrian administration, and I have therefore considered it my duty to warn him that, if he wished to reside in this country, it would be well for him to be more careful in future.

His letters, which from time to time appear in the "Manchester Guardian," have been reproduced in the Austrian press, and are well known by the authorities here as emanating from his pen; indeed, he makes no secret of it.

On my speaking to him on the subject he at first showed a spirit of resentment, and threatened, in the event of being compelled to leave Austrian territory, to take up his abode at Antivari.

Mr. Evans, who is an amateur correspondent, has now taken a twenty years' lease of a villa beautifully situated near the sea, on which he has spent a good deal of money.

He has lately married a daughter of Mr. Freeman, the historian, and the object of his residence here is to be within easy reach of the lately occupied provinces, which he often visits for the purpose of relieving distress. He is also engaged in studying and writing the history of these countries.

I therefore pointed out to him that an expulsion, such as that experienced by a Russian correspondent last year, might cause him some inconvenience; and that a faithful account on the state of affairs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina would, in my opinion, have a far greater effect if unaccompanied by virulent attacks on the Government.

Mr. Evans thanked me for my timely warning, and promised to be more cautious in future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 433.

Extract from the "Manchester Guardian" of April 26, 1879.

THE AUSTRIANS IN HERZEGOVINA.

(From our Ragusa Correspondent.)

Ragusa, April 13.

ON my return to the Herzegovinian frontier I find the aspect of affairs decidedly more favourable than in Bosnia, though that is not saying much. Nothing, indeed, can be more characteristic of Austrian—or, if you will, Austro-Hungarian—administration, than the uneven way in which the new yoke presses upon the two occupied provinces. Perhaps it is that the more warlike character of the Herzegovinian population inspires in the new administrators that respect which is born of fear. Perhaps it is to accident that while the reduction and government of Bosnia was originally intrusted to the Croat and Roman Catholic General Philippovich, the same task was performed in Herzegovina by the Serb General Jovanovich, who is known to be at heart the friend of his co-nationalists and co-religionists. Perhaps, again, there is no accident about in the matter; but the whole is only to be looked on as another instance of the application of Austria's time-honoured maxim, *divide et impera*. In other words, it is thought politic to detach as much as possible the interests of the Herzegovinians from those of the Bosnians.

So much at least is certain that, while in many Bosnian districts the people, brutally "repatriated" in the depth of winter, have been left to strew the snow with their corpses, in Herzegovina the distribution of relief has been comparatively regular, and that at this moment the returned refugees about Trebinje and elsewhere have not only actually received 5 florins a-head, or the equivalent in seed-corn, but have been promised and will receive for distribution in a few days' time 700 oxen. The demand on the ex-rayah population to make contracts with their former Mahommedan masters to pay the hated *tretina* as of old and to return to the position of knets, created in Herzegovina a feeling of indignation as least as deep as in Bosnia. Indeed, up to within the last week or so it was thought that the Austrian Government was attempting an impossible task in urging even this paper solution of the land question. But the Herzegovinians, who share the political shrewdness of their neighbours, the Montenegrins, and have no doubt received some good advice in the matter from Cettinje, saw that by refusing this demand, intensely odious as it is to them, they would be sacrificing their material well-being to what are, after all, considerations of a more sentimental kind. "If we refuse to make the contracts," the Herzegovinians argued, "the Austrians threaten to refuse to continue any further 'alimentation,' and our people must starve. If we consent, what earthly difference will it make? Contracts, after all, are but paper, and which of the Begs will dare show his face in our villages to exact his dues, even if we consent to pay them? Or if the day comes, as soon it will come, when we can tear the paper to shreds, a contract wrung from us by a threat of starvation cannot involve even a legal obligation." At the eleventh hour these very practical considerations have had their weight, and in many districts in Herzegovina the village representatives have expressed the people's willingness to draw up the required contracts. Where they have been made the Turkish landlord has had to abate his former pretensions considerably, and in districts, as about Mostar, where the rayahs were formerly forced to give up half the produce of their fields, they now consent to pay only a sixth, a fifth, or at most a fourth. Nor must it be thought that by any means the whole Christian population has as yet consented to obey the Austrian demands. In the single district of Gatzko there are at least 200 families of recalcitrants, and it was only after the Kaimakam, a chief native official, the ex-insurgent leader, Zimonich, had been arrested and interned in Mostar, that any in that canton would sign the required contracts.

The guerilla movement of the Begs that I spoke of as imminent in Northern Bosnia has begun. Officially it is described as "the appearance of numerous robber bands on the Croatian frontier of Bosnia." Some light columns of chasseurs are being employed to restrain the operations of these gentry; but the movement itself lacks unity of action, and is at present of little importance. It seems, however, that a Turkish Patriotic Committee in Constantinople considered the moment ripe for a general Mahommedan insurrection, and accordingly an influential agent, Hadji Allja Brashkovich, a Herzegovinian Beg, then in Stamboul in company with a few associates, undertook to foment an outbreak. He appeared in Trebinje, and many of the influential Turks of the district frequented his house. The Austrian authorities, however, got wind of these proceedings, and some days ago, when the conspirators were assembled at Hadji Allja's, the house was surrounded by three companies of troops, and the Turks, to the number of twenty, were marched off under arrest. In the course of the cross-examination that followed, one of the prisoners turned Queen's evidence, and confessed the existence of a plot, but afterwards, apparently regretting that he had said so much, refused to make any further revelations. As to the ex-rayah insurgents of Herzegovina, they have at present absolutely no intention of rising against the powers that be. In the case, however, of any general European complications in which Austria found herself engaged, an Austro-Russian war for instance, there is no doubt that the Austrians would have to prepare for a very formidable insurrection in Herzegovina. In spite of the attempt to disarm the population, it is an open fact that *caches* of arms exist all over the province. In fact, an ex-insurgent boasted to an acquaintance of mine the other day that they were never better armed. In Austria they see the deadly enemy of their dearest national aspirations, and in Bosnia at all events the new Administration has done all in its power to confirm this belief. Under the Turks the Orthodox Christian population of the province were at least allowed to preserve their national title of Serbs and to use their national alphabet. At the present moment, under the Austro-Hungarian régime, the very name of Serb is proscribed, and public documents and even street names affixed in the streets of Serbian towns written in Latin characters unintelligible to the citizens. There are not many, it is true, who possess even so much of a liberal education as to be

able to read and write; but young Bosnian schoolmasters and other natives who possess these accomplishments have been refused posts in the new Austrian bureaus because they were unacquainted with German. A Ragusan gentleman the other day, in giving me his views of the state of affairs in the two occupied provinces, hit it off in a few words when he remarked:—"Everybody knew when the Austrians entered Bosnia that they would end in making themselves odious to all parties; but no one could have guessed that they would have accomplished that feat so soon. To-day they are equally hated by Turks, Serbs, Latins, and their own officials."

No. 434.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 183.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 17, 1879.*

I CALLED yesterday on Minister for Foreign Affairs, and again to-day, after receiving your Lordship's telegram No. 27, to urge departure of Aleko Pasha and the Commission.

His Excellency informed me that he was equally anxious with Her Majesty's Government on the subject, but neither the Firman promulgating the Statute nor that appointing Aleko had yet been signed.

I told his Excellency that both M. de Kallay and myself were ready to start. I also pressed him to hurry on the reforms under Article XXIII, and to fix a day at any rate for convoking the local Commissions. I said that delay produced a bad effect in Parliament. On this head he gave me satisfactory assurances.

No. 435.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 434.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 18, 1879.*

I AM informed that Russian Ambassador told the Porte, confidentially, that Prince Battenberg will visit European Courts before coming to Constantinople to receive his investiture. Instructions have, consequently, been sent to Turkish Ambassadors abroad to be civil to him, but to take no official notice of him. Sultan feels sore because Prince does not come here first.

No. 436.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 435.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 18, 1879.*

PORTE has been officially informed from Athens that Greek Government has formed a camp at Lapenos, close to the Turkish frontier, of nine battalions of line, two of chasseurs, two squadrons of cavalry, and four batteries of artillery.

(Sent to Mr. Corbett.)

No. 437.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 437.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 18, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 65, Minister for Foreign Affairs assures me that the European Organic Law for European Turkey will be submitted at once to the Special Local Commissions.

No. 438.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 438.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 18, 1879.*

SULTAN'S Iradé, confirming Aleko Pasha, and sanctioning Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia, has been issued.

No. 439.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, May 18, 1879.*

IN his answer to the Bulgarian deputation, Prince Alexander insisted much on the Russian alliance, and said that he hoped that his visit to the European Courts would be advantageous to the Bulgarians outside the Principality also.

No. 440.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, April 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the speech delivered by his Excellency Ghalib Pasha on the occasion of his reading his Firman in public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 440.

Speech by Ghalib Pasha.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 219.]

No. 441.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, April 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of my despatch of the 16th April to address of Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 441.

Major Trotter to Mr. Mulet.

Sir, *Diarbekir, April 16, 1879.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 30th March, I have the honour to state that the condition of the vilayet continues tolerably tranquil, but I regret to have to report rather persistent attempts on the part of the Armenians and Jacobites in the Sert Sandjak to take advantage of the comparative quietness of the times to commence systematic persecution of the Protestants.

In the despatch above quoted I mentioned that Said Pasha, the Mutessarif of Sert, had dispatched a Commissioner to make inquiries into a recent very brutal case

of persecution and expulsion of a Protestant family by the Jacobites of the village of A-udh. I have since received another telegram from the Pasha stating that the expelled family has been reinstated in its home, and that the ringleaders in the affair have been arrested and will be punished.

From Redwan, a sub-district of the Sert Sandjak, I have received a petition signed by the head-men of the Chaldæan, Jacobite, and Armenian communities, making charges against the Protestants that they parade the streets blaspheming and abusing the religions of the above mentioned. The petitioners further threatened that if these acts were continued I ought not to be surprised if I shortly heard news of assassinations and disturbances, as it was impossible for the Armenians to live if they continued to suffer such treatment. Shortly after receipt of the above I received a lengthy telegram couched in similar terms, and stating that since my arrival at Diarbekir the Protestants had become intolerably overbearing in their behaviour, and that an end must be put to this state of affairs. A duplicate of this telegram was, I have since ascertained, simultaneously sent to the Vali Pasha.

I was not surprised, a day or two later on, to learn that these other Christian sects had been ill-treating the Protestants. It appears, by letters received from Redwan, that a Protestant was invited into the house of an Armenian, and on a religious discussion commencing, the Armenians tried to compel the Protestant to admit the doctrine of the real presence. On his declining to do so, they set upon him and beat him. Another Protestant passing by was invited inside, and he encountered the same treatment. The injured parties went to the Kaïmakam to complain, and were told to bring written petitions in the morning. In the meanwhile a counter-charge was brought against the two Protestants that they had forcibly entered the Armenian's house and committed an assault. The Cadi, who is said to have been bought over by the Armenians, decided against the Protestants, and sentenced them to several weeks' imprisonment. The decision and the sentence were manifestly so unjust that a Mahommedan member of the Cadi's Court left it rather than sign such an unjust decree. The Protestant pastor protested against the sentence, probably with some vigour, and he, too, was condemned to six weeks' imprisonment, but the Kaïmakam pronounced the latter sentence illegal, and ordered the pastor's release.

I have had conversations on this affair with the Armenian Bishop of Diarbekir and with M. Boyagian, the Protestant pastor here; and the result has been that I have sent a letter to the Mutessarif of Sert, begging him to see that justice be done in the matter. I have but little doubt but that Said Pasha will take the matter energetically in hand. I have also written two other letters, one to the Protestant community at Redwan, exhorting them to refrain from offensive remarks and from thrusting their religious opinions down the throats of their adversaries; but I have at the same time told them that I had written to the Pasha to see that justice was done them in the matter, and I trusted the result would be that the prisoners would be released. My other letter was to the signataries of the petition. I pointed out that as they had, amongst other accusations, stated one manifest falsehood, viz., that the Protestants went about crying out that Christ was a simple prophet, I might fairly presume that their other statements were equally unreliable, but I said that my object was to work for all Christians alike, and as a proof of my conciliatory disposition, I had refrained from handing their petition over to the Vali Pasha. Had I done so, they would certainly have been punished, as the document contained illegal threats, but as my object was to bring about peace and concord, I had contented myself with strongly recommending both them and the Protestants to keep the peace one with the other instead of letting their quarrels be a scandal to Christendom, especially in the present very critical state of affairs, when it behoves all Christians to be good friends.

The Armenian Bishop Philippos has also sent to the Armenians conciliatory advice, and Pastor Boyagian has done the same to the Protestants, so if good advice be of any avail in the matter the villagers have had plenty of it, and I hope that the matter will not develop into anything more serious.

From the Miayad Sandjak I have also had unfavourable reports about the condition of the Protestants, but my last advices state that affairs have taken a more promising turn. I have in former despatches* narrated how a certain Osman Timur, the greatest of the Turkish Aghas in the Midyad district, had systematically ill-treated the Protestants, and Dr. Thom, the only American missionary now at Mardin, wrote to me on date 7th April, saying that "the men and some of the women of the Protestant communities had had to flee from the villages of Keferzi and Arnas. At

* No 2, Political, of January 17 to Foreign Office, sent under flying seal to Ambassador in my No. 6 of same date. Also my No. 17 of February 18.

the former place Ismail Agha, with a zaptieh, entered the houses and took from the women anything and everything they wished, while at Arnas Osman Agha has so intimidated the Protestants that three families have declared themselves non-Protestants, and the rest have been ordered to follow their example or prepare for war. One man started from Arnas for Keferzi, was overtaken by some of Osman Timur's tribe, beaten, wounded, and left for dead, having been robbed of his gun and knife, but he finally got away to his house. These Protestants are now in Midyad, not daring to return home."

A letter of later date—10th April—gives a much more favourable account. The Protestant communities had telegraphed to the Vali Pasha in Diarbekir for protection, and he at once telegraphed orders to the Binbashi in command of the troops at Midyad to do what was needful. As a result of this officer's intervention both the exiled communities have returned to their homes, and the famous Osman Timur has been so far humbled that he has been to call on Râji Effendi, the Protestant Vakil at Midyad, and has begged that the latter would overlook the past and come to an understanding for the future, promising that hereafter neither he nor any of his family would give any more trouble. As, however, his brother is said to have started on the following day with twenty armed men to attack another village called Batha, the Protestants are still in doubt as to his ultimate intentions.

It is worthy of remark that the cowardly attack on the Midyad mission house—previously fully reported on—occurred two hours after the departure of the Rev. Mr. Andrus, the resident missionary, on a visit to Diarbekir. The present outburst of fanaticism has occurred immediately subsequent to that same gentleman's departure on a trip to Mosul.

In my despatch of the 14th March I informed your Excellency that the Mutessarif of Mardin had dispatched a certain Daniel Effendi to Midyad on special duty, to made inquiries about the Midyad assault case. The Commissioner has returned to Mardin, and the Rev. Mr. Andrus has informed me that the Report prepared, but not yet officially submitted to the Governor, is a fairly impartial and correct one, so there is some prospect that this long pending case may at last be brought to a conclusion.

It is, perhaps, desirable that I should state that the ill-treatment of Protestants in the Sert Sandjak is, as far as I can judge, due to purely religious rancour, whereas in the Midyad district of the Mardin Sandjak the persecution is, as I have had occasion to explain in former despatches, based on political rather than on religious grounds. The authorities in both districts appear to be fairly well disposed towards the Protestants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 442.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, April* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Confidential despatch of the 24th April, to the address of Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople.

I would beg respectfully to call your Lordship's attention to the general remarks on the subject of reforms in Asiatic Turkey contained in the second and third sheets of the despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 442.

Major Trotter to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, April* 24, 1879.

IN my telegram of yesterday's date I stated that "I have been informed our Governor has resigned; it is desirable resignation be accepted."

I have in my despatches hitherto been very reticent as to my opinions of the new Vali, Izzet Pasha, and I am not yet in a position positively to state whether or not he takes bribes, but there can, I think, be no doubt that if a good Governor were appointed in his stead the country would be a gainer by the retirement of Izzet Pasha. All those of my acquaintance who know him best state that he is very incompetent as a man of business, and very headstrong withal, always insisting on having his own way, and not listening to advice or brooking contradiction or interference. The four or five interviews I have myself had with him have been most unsatisfactory. Although he is personally most polite, I cannot, owing to his habit of changing the conversation directly an unwelcome subject turns up, even get him to listen seriously to any representations I may have to make, still less to act on them. I had occasion to write to him a fortnight ago, pointing out some unnecessary hardships to which some Christians from Haïni village were being exposed, and asking him to give some orders in the matter. After waiting ten days, I wrote again, asking for an answer to my original letter. He replied at last, giving some fairly plausible reasons for not doing what I wished, but I understand that in conversation with individuals connected with the Government he expressed himself as being very indignant at my requiring a reply; he argued that I had no right to expect one! Of course, however, I can only take cognizance of his public acts, and as he ultimately answered my letter, I have nothing to complain about. Two nights ago, however, he gave a picnic to some of the notables of the town—Christian and Mahommedan—at which both he and Kiazim Pasha (a brother-in-law of the Sultan), the two principal members of the Reform Commission for Kurdistan, got very drunk. The latter violently and loudly abused one of the Vali Pasha's most respectable guests, while the Vali Pasha, in the early stage of his intoxication, made a clean breast to one of his guests as to how he had sent in his resignation a few days before because the Government would not give him full powers to carry out his ideas of reforming the vilayet. Later on, I understand, his Excellency discoursed against Consuls in general, and myself in particular, stating how on former occasions he had successfully fought with them, and he did not intend to be led by one now. This conversation was repeated to me in confidence, but the fact of the two chiefs of the late Reform Commission being disgracefully drunk at a large party is a fact well known to the whole town.

I have not quarrelled with his Excellency, and we are outwardly on good terms, but I feel quite sure that as long as he remains Vali I shall have very little influence with him for good; and as far as I have had the means of forming an opinion he is likely to make a most indifferent Governor. I feel, therefore, that I am perfectly justified in having dispatched the telegram as above. I have not thought it desirable to beg your Excellency to apply for his removal, but as I hear he has himself tendered his resignation it might easily happen that an opportunity should occur for a word to be said in favour of letting his resignation be accepted. I have therefore felt it right to let my own views be known in the matter.

I take this opportunity of asking whether I have any right to interfere on behalf of oppressed Christian subjects of the Porte, and if so, under what authority? I may be misinformed, but I imagine that in point of law, although the Pasha is bound in point of courtesy to reply to any communication I may make to him, yet he is entitled to decline to act on my suggestions, and, indeed, to refuse to admit my right to move in any matter unconnected with the protection of British subjects. In the Firmans recently granted to me I can find no allusion to any more extended rights of interference, and although, until I receive further instructions from your Excellency, I shall endeavour to avoid coming into direct collision with the Pasha on the subject, it might at any time happen that the question should come to an issue; I should therefore be greatly obliged by an early intimation of your Excellency's views.

The Pasha informed me to-day that he has just received instructions from Constantinople that, in future, the Pasha and administrative officials are to have nothing whatever to do with the judicial functionaries, that the latter are, in fact, to be quite independent; and, in future, the Pasha will have no power to influence them in any way. However desirable such a system may be in a civilized country, with upright judges, there can be no two opinions that, with the present corrupt Medjlisses, the Pasha is, in most cases, to a certain extent, a protection against open and bare-faced corruption. That check will now be removed, and corruption will reign rampant in a much more unblushing manner than before. What little influence the Consul now possesses for good will be in great measure lost, for in cases of gross injustice in which a Consul may hitherto have been interested, it was possible for the Consul to work on the Pasha, and, through the latter, on the Medjliss. Now, if he is to do anything at all, he will have to work on the Medjliss direct. I may mention that Said Pasha, the Mutessarif of Sert, one of the very few honest, able, and

upright Pashas in the country, has telegraphed to the Vali to say that it is impossible to work the new system satisfactorily; and, as long as the Tribunals remain on their present footing, I entirely agree with him.

The question of Consular interference in the affairs of the State is, of course, more or less connected with the future position of the English in Turkey in Asia. If Great Britain be not directly represented in the administration of the country, it will certainly be necessary for Her Majesty's Consuls to have well-determined powers of remonstrance and interference. With the late Vali of Diarbekir, Abdul Rahman Pasha, I had no difficulties. He was actuated by a *bonâ fide* desire to rule the country well, and was grateful to me for practical suggestions, which he often tried to carry out; while, on the other hand, he received, for as much as it was worth, my cordial support at head-quarters, through the intervention of Her Majesty's Ambassador; but, unless by a rare chance, it is not likely that Pasha and Consul shall be so constituted that they shall be able to hit matters off so satisfactorily, especially in a country where the administration, from top to bottom, is so notoriously corrupt as it is in this and other vilayets.

It may be desirable, from a political point of view, that, for the present, I should content myself with watching and reporting to Her Majesty's Government on the maladministration of the province, and the want of order and justice that exists. On the other hand, it may be urged that the hopes of the Christians of the eastern provinces of Asiatic Turkey, raised by the promises made in Congress and elsewhere, are rapidly giving place to despondency, and, unless some active steps be shortly taken by Great Britain, there is fear of a reaction which will throw the Armenians into the arms of Russia, while England would lose the hold I believe she still retains on the sympathies of a great portion of the Armenian and other Christian populations of these provinces. The people are beginning to think that they have nothing to expect from England, and they are, naturally, looking out elsewhere. I believe it would produce a very good effect if the Government were to increase considerably the number of Her Majesty's Agents in Asiatic Turkey, and give them more direct powers of interference in the internal administration of the country.

I ask that it may be understood that I am giving this opinion solely in the interests of the oppressed populations of the country. While, on the one hand, I believe that the only chance for the improvement of the status of the Christians is to be found in the aid and support of Her Majesty's Government, tendered with no niggard hand, but with a firm resolve to succeed, yet I am fully sensible of the risks that must be incurred by England in carrying such a policy out. I can quite conceive the existence of such a state of things that the Turkish Government will have made ostensibly sufficient concessions in the way of promises, or, indeed, of actual reforms, as to have fulfilled her obligations under the Cyprus Convention, but that the actual state of the country should be such that, were we called on to redeem our pledge of saving Turkey in Asia from Russian aggression, we should find ourselves fighting to retain, under the Turkish Government, a people, *i.e.*, the population of the Eastern portions of Asiatic Turkey, the majority of whom would have no special sympathy for us or our cause, and would be a hindrance rather than a help to us. I believe that the vast mass of the Kurdish population have, at this moment, so little sympathy with and respect for the Turkish Government, that they would not stir to resist Russian aggression. The Christians, as a body, or, at all events, a large share of them, would probably prefer Russian rule to Turkish, and would certainly not exert themselves to support the Turkish Government, and the position of England would become extremely critical were she to attempt to resist Russia by force of arms in these provinces. I not only can conceive the possibility of such a state of things as I have described above, but I believe that it is the situation that will actually exist should England only adopt half-measures in the matter of reform. If we were to throw ourselves heart and soul into the work, the position would be different. We should have more sympathizers and more support, but whether the result would compensate for the efforts put forth is, I believe, a matter worthy the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Your Excellency may, perhaps, think that I am outstepping my duty in making these suggestions, but I would submit that, having had opportunities accorded to no one else of seeing the actual discontent, weakness, and dissensions of the numerous classes and creeds which combine to make up the population of this portion of Asiatic Turkey, as well as the almost universal corruption and inefficiency that prevails in the Administration, that I consider that I should be wanting in my duty were I not to point out, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, some of the difficulties and dangers to be apprehended in carrying out the objects they ultimately have in view.

It is probably true that the portion of Asiatic Turkey that I have had the opportunity of seeing is amongst the worst governed of the Empire. At the same time, as far as the

English nation is concerned, it is probably one of the most important, as, should we ever become involved in hostilities with Russia on account of Turkey, Armenia and Kurdistan form probably the field where we should first meet in hostile array.

An obvious moral to be deduced from what I have written, although it was not in my thoughts at the time of writing, is that Her Majesty's Government ought to have more representatives in these provinces, and the sooner the better, in order that the Government may be made thoroughly acquainted with the actual existing state of affairs, and that a number of Englishmen may be trained up to have a knowledge of the country, its inhabitants, and its languages; not only that, but as the presence of even a single respectable European is an influence for good in this country, the multiplication of Consular Agents would be more conducive of immediate benefit to the suffering Christian populations than many other more complicated and perhaps more compromising remedies.

Supposing, for a moment, that we were shortly to be involved in a war with Russia, the Kurdish element would undoubtedly be a most important one to deal with, and, as far as I know, there is not a single official in Her Majesty's services who speaks Kurdish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—*April* 26.—Since the above was written, I have received Lord Salisbury's sanction to my proposition that I should spend the summer in Kurdistan for the purpose of seeing and reporting on the state of that district.

H. T.

No. 443.

Consul Joel to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 1. Political.)
Brindisi, May 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that having had occasion to call on the Prefect this morning, he told me, in confidence, of a matter which had excited his suspicion, and which I deem my duty to communicate to your Lordship.

That on the 30th ultimo there arrived here, by steamer from Corfu, a Colonel Becker and General Tichernajeff, both Russians, the latter known to have been employed in raising volunteers against Turkey during the late war, that they left the same day for Bari, where they remained until the 8th instant, and returned here late that night, and that they left here at noon yesterday, the 9th instant, by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer for Trieste *en route* to Galatz, accompanied by a French engineer named Pyat, who arrived here on the 7th instant in a yacht of about 45 tons carrying the French flag, which yacht remains in Brindisi until his or their return.

The Prefect's impression is that their advent is connected with some political affairs, probably a movement in Albania, and he is trying to ascertain what could have been the object of their eight days' stay in Bari. He promised to communicate to me any further information he may obtain on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEWIS JOEL.

No. 444.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 25.)
Constantinople, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Protocols of the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th sittings of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 444.

Protocole No. 17.—Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le 26 Avril, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Selmeur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Chefket Bey,
Le Major Mehmet Aly Bey,
Le Capitaine Cheraletin Effendi,
Le Capitaine Mehmet Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 15 minutes.

Le Protocole No. 16 est lu et adopté.

Le Président donne lecture d'une lettre en date du 25 Avril, par laquelle son Excellence le Comte Zichy l'informe que, partant pour Vienne, il se voyait à son grand regret, hors d'état de faire les démarches demandées par la Commission. Il propose de faire parvenir le Doyen actuel du Corps Diplomatique à Constantinople, son Excellence le Prince Lobanoff, une copie de la lettre précédemment adressée à son Excellence le Comte Zichy. Cette proposition est adoptée.

La Commission poursuit la discussion relative à la défense de la frontière des Balkans.

Le Président demande à son Excellence Tahir Pacha si, après en avoir conféré avec son Gouvernement, il insiste sur la prétention de donner à la Turquie une zone de terrain continue en avant de la crête du Grand Balkan.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha ayant déclaré renoncer à la susdite revendication, le *Président* met en discussion les propositions du Général Hamley et du Colonel Bogolubow, et demande au Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne s'il n'est pas en état de soumettre à la Commission un texte sur lequel l'accord puisse se faire entre les divers Commissaires.

M. le Général Hamley donne lecture de la proposition suivante, à laquelle adhèrent le Colonel Baron de Ripp, le Colonel Orero, le Major Comte de Wedel, et son Excellence Tahir Pacha :—

"Depuis Démir-Kapu jusqu'à Kosica, les mots du deuxième paragraphe de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin : 'la chaîne principale du Grand Balkan,' seront interprétés en ce sens, que la frontière suivra la ligne de partage des eaux, sauf dans les points où cette ligne ne suffirait pas à la défense de la Roumélie Orientale ; sur ces points la Commission porterait la frontière en avant de la crête."

Le Président demande à M. le Commissaire de Russie s'il accepte cette proposition.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow ne peut donner son adhésion que sous certaines réserves: si les empiétements auxquels il consent sur le versant nord du Balkan, dépassaient la ligne tracée à une portée de fusil de la crête, il demanderait en retour, et par compensation, des empiétements sur le versant méridional. Il espère, d'ailleurs, que la Commission se montrera très-rigoureuse dans l'appréciation des exigences de la défense. L'étude de la chaîne des Balkans lui a prouvé que souvent le meilleur site défensif ne se trouve pas au col même, mais sur le versant méridional du Balkan. La dernière campagne lui a toujours montré les Turcs choisissant sur ce versant leurs positions défensives, et il lui convient de citer à l'appui de cette opinion les Passes de Tvardica et de Haïn-Boghaz; ainsi les Turcs s'étaient fortifiés à l'endroit où la route par le col de Tvardica quitte la montagne pour descendre dans la plaine, dans une position toute indiquée où la route défile entre deux hauteurs escarpées. De pareils sites se rencontrent près de la passe de Haïn-Boghaz et sur d'autres point de la chaîne. Pour assurer une bonne défense passive, il n'y aurait donc pas lieu sur ces points de rejeter la frontière au nord de la crête.

Le Président demande à M. le Colonel Bogolubow si, la proposition en discussion étant une fois acquise à la Commission, il ferait sur le terrain une question de principe de l'étendue des empiétements au nord de la ligne parallèle à la crête, tracée à une distance d'une portée de fusil.

La réponse affirmative du Commissaire Russe amène *M. le Général Hamley* à contester formellement le choix, comme distance limite, d'une portée de fusil. Le Commissaire Anglais estime que la frontière donnée au Sultan ne serait pas défendable si l'étendue du territoire Ottoman en avant des ouvrages fortifiés était bornée à un kilomètre, et croit à la possibilité pour l'ennemi de rendre dans ce cas certains des ouvrages intenables. Il consent seulement à modifier le texte ci-dessus donné de sa proposition en la terminant par ces mots: "dans les limites strictement nécessaires à la défense," ou par un membre de phrase équivalent.

M. le Colonel Orero s'efforce d'amener M. le Colonel Bogolubow à se confier dans le jugement impartial et équitable des Représentants des trois Puissances particulièrement désintéressées. Les termes de la proposition en discussion lui paraissent devoir rassurer celui-ci sur l'étendue des empiétements; il ne croit pas qu'il y ait jamais lieu pour le Commissaire Russe de soulever la question des compensations, parce que des considérations militaires présideront seules à la détermination de l'empiétement minimum nécessité par les soins de la défense. Il ne pense pas davantage que la question de l'étendue de l'empiétement ainsi légitimé puisse constituer pour l'un des Commissaires une question de principe.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow, pour dissiper l'équivoque et éviter un malentendu, suggère à la Commission de passer à l'examen des cartes et à l'étude de détail des différentes passes de la chaîne du Grand Balkan. Cette étude lui permettrait de se rendre un compte exact de l'étendue des empiétements que la Commission penserait devoir accorder.

Cette motion est appuyée par *M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp*, qui remarque qu'un pareil travail s'impose d'ailleurs à la Commission pour la fixation de son itinéraire dans les Balkans; combattue, au contraire, par *M. le Colonel Orero*, animé de la persuasion que les différences pouvant exister encore entre les Commissaires ne sont pas de nature à être annulées par l'examen d'une carte, mais qu'elles s'évanouiraient sur le terrain devant l'intérêt que l'Europe attache au prompt réglement de la délimitation de la Bulgarie.

M. le Général Hamley se déclare également contraire. Il ne veut pas s'engager, en ce moment, sur l'étude des cartes, dont il ne se promet pas un bon résultat. Il pense qu'un tel travail aboutirait uniquement à accuser la divergence de vue entre le Commissaire Russe et lui. Il propose de décider au préalable par un vote si la question de l'étendue des empiétements jugés nécessaires en chaque point doit être considérée comme une question de détail ou comme une question de principe; dans ce dernier cas le vote permettrait d'en référer immédiatement aux Gouvernements.

Le Commissaire de France fait observer qu'à son sens cette procédure pourrait entraîner inutilement des retards, et qu'il serait avantageux pour chacun des Commissaires de s'éclairer sur la portée réelle du désaccord.

M. le Général Hamley, voyant que plusieurs membres veulent accéder à la proposition du Colonel Bogolubow, consent, avec *M. le Colonel Orero*, à aborder l'examen des cartes.

La proposition des Commissaires Russes et Autrichien est alors mise aux voix, et adoptée à l'unanimité.

La Commission, sur l'invitation du *Président*, après avoir examiné la carte, met à

l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, l'étude des Passes Tvardica, Haïn-Boghaz, Travna, et Chipka.

M. le Général Hamley prie la Commission de fixer la date du départ des officiers envoyés pour lever la zone frontière entre le Velina-Mogila et le Cadir-Tépé. Les renseignements recueillis par le Major Ardagh lui permettent d'annoncer que, sauf sur les pentes du Cadir-Tépé, encore couvertes des neiges, le travail topographique pourrait immédiatement être entrepris.

La Commission ayant décidé que les officiers Anglais pourraient se mettre en route aussitôt leurs préparatifs faits, *M. le Commissaire Anglais* demande à connaître la réponse donnée au Colonel Bogolubow par son Excellence le Prince Lobanoff.

M. le Commissaire Russe répond que toutes les mesures nécessaires ont été prises, qu'une escorte est assurée, et qu'il s'entendra, pour tous les détails, avec le Chef de la brigade topographique Anglaise, le Major Ardagh.

La date de la prochaine séance est fixée au 28 Avril.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie.

(Signé) WEDEL.
PIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:

(Signé) G. Marmier.
Douglas Jones.
F. Vicino-Pallavicino.
N. Schneur.
Simon Papasian.

Inclosure 2 in No. 444.

Protocole No. 18.—*Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le* 28 *Avril*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Towfik Bey,
Le Capitaine Mehmet Bey.

LA Séance est ouverte à 1 heure 30 minutes.
Le Protocole No. 17 est lu et adopté.

La discussion s'ouvre sur la Passe de Tvardica.

Le Président observe que si plusieurs membres de la Commission inclinent à ne pas se prononcer sur la défense stratégique du Balkan, aucun d'eux ne saurait cependant se refuser à entrer dans l'examen de la défense tactique d'une passe. Il invite les Commissaires à aborder cette étude.

Une première discussion s'engage sur le fond même du débat, dans laquelle M. le Colonel Bogolubow dit qu'il conviendrait de procéder comme il suit à l'étude des passes: il propose d'examiner en premier lieu si la défense de la passe pourrait être assurée en arrière du col, et de n'admettre des empiétements sur le versant septentrional que dans le cas contraire. Invité par *M. le Colonel Orero* à formuler sa proposition, il se déclare prêt à accepter la proposition du Général Hamley, si l'on consent à substituer aux mots "dans les limites strictement nécessaires à la défense" ceux "dans les limites d'une portée de fusil."

L'accord ne paraissant pas pouvoir se faire entre les différents Commissaires, *le Président* ramène le débat sur le sujet à l'ordre du jour, mais, voyant l'hésitation de plusieurs membres de la Commission à formuler un jugement qui pourrait les lier, tandis que le Commissaire Russe conserverait toute son indépendance, il propose qu'il ne soit pas rendu compte de la discussion dans les Protocoles.

La Commission ayant partagé cet avis, discute successivement la défense des Passes de Tvardica, d'Haïn-Boghaz, et de Travna. *Le Président* demande ensuite à M. le Colonel Bogolubow si les trois solutions qui ont été préférées ne l'édifient pas suffisamment sur l'esprit de modération de la majorité, pour qu'il puisse adhérer sans réserve à la proposition du Général Hamley, *M. le Commissaire Russe* se retranche derrière ses instructions, mais promet d'en référer à son Gouvernement; il espère être en mesure de donner une réponse dans la prochaine séance.

Ouvrant ensuite la discussion sur la Passe de Chipka, M. le Commissaire Russe renouvelle la motion faite au Congrès par le Comte Schouvaloff de neutraliser le terrain contenant les sépultures des braves soldats qui sont tombés dans les combats livrés pour la possession du col.

M. le Général Hamley et *son Excellence Tahir Pacha* sont prêts à déférer à ce pieux désir, si la position occupée par le cimetière n'est pas indispensable à la défense.

En raison de l'heure avancée, le Président demande à la Commission de ne pas s'engager dans une discussion de fond, et propose de clore la séance en réglant le prochain ordre du jour comme il suit: (1) proposition présentée par le Général Hamley d'accord avec les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Turquie; (2) détermination de l'itinéraire de la Commission dans le Balkan.

La séance est levée à 5 heures 40 minutes, et la prochaine réunion est fixée au Mercredi, 30 Avril.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) G. MARMIER.
DOUGLAS JONES.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 444.

Protocole No. 19.—Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le 1er Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Chefket Bey,
Le Capitaine Mehmet Bey,
M. le Capitaine Chératétin Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 15 minutes.

Le Protocole No. 18 est lu et adopté.

Le Président donne lecture d'une lettre de son Excellence le Prince Lobanoff, informant la Commission qu'il s'est entendu avec la Sublime Porte pour que l'escorte soit fournie dans chaque lieu par la Puissance occupante. Il demande ensuite au Commissaire Russe s'il est maintenant autorisé à voter la proposition du Général Hamley.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare qu'il se rallierait complétement à la majorité, si celle-ci consentait à modifier légèrement le texte de la proposition et à adopter la rédaction suivante:—

"Depuis Démir-Kapu jusqu'à Kosica, les mots du deuxième alinéa de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin 'la chaîne principale du grand Balkan' seront interprétés en ce sens, que la frontière suivra en général la ligne de partage des eaux. Si après un examen des cartes et du terrain, la Commission voyait, que, dans les points importants de la frontière, les positions qui se trouvent sur le versant méridional de la crête ne suffisent pas à la défense, il y aurait lieu de chercher ces positions sur la crête même, et aussi sur le versant nord, mais toutefois sans dépasser les limites strictement nécessaires à une défense."

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha propose de substituer aux mots "dans les points importants" ceux "dans certains points."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow y consent, et le Président, après avoir constaté que ces points étaient laissés à l'appréciation de la Commission, met aux voix la nouvelle rédaction de la proposition du Colonel Bogolubow.

La Commission l'adopte à l'unanimité.

Le Président rappelle ensuite que sur le désir exprimé par M. le Colonel Orero et M. le Major Comte de Wedel, la décision relative au tracé de la frontière entre Démir-Kapu et Aïdos-Bredza avait été réservée. Il demande aux Commissaires Italien et Allemand s'ils sont maintenant en état d'aborder la discussion de la question.

M. le Colonel Orero soumet alors à la Commission la proposition suivante:—

"Dans le Karnabad-Balkan, le Prisévica-Balkan, le Kazan-Balkan, la Commission, étant liée par le texte du Traité, ne pourra jamais s'écarter de la crête, dans le tracé de la frontière. Pour préciser sa tâche, elle acceptera comme ligne-frontière la ligne de partage des eaux, partout où la crête aura une forme bien déterminée. Dans les autres points, la ligne-frontière pourrait être avancée jusqu'à la limite nord de la crête, si la Commission le jugeait nécessaire à la défense de la Roumélie Orientale."

M. le Général Hamley se fondant sur le Protocole No. 15 du Congrès, pense que l'obligation faite à la Commission de prendre en considération la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre les frontières du Balkan, doit s'appliquer aussi bien à la chaîne du Grand-Balkan qu'à la partie de la frontière en discussion. Pour lui, la ligne-frontière arrêtée par les Plénipotentiaires est le résultat d'un compromis, et le Congrès a voulu en atténuer les inconvénients, en ajoutant à l'Article II le onzième alinéa qui se rapporte aux différentes parties de la chaîne. La Commission ne doit pas l'oublier. Cependant, le texte du Traité est assez précis, pour que l'on ne puisse songer à quitter la crête pour suivre une ligne de hauteur avancée.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha admet que la crête fournisse une position défendable si elle est constituée par un plateau, mais, si elle se réduit à une bande étroite de terrain, la défense, selon lui, devient impossible faute d'espace.

Dans ce cas, observe *M. le Colonel Orero*, la crête est bordée par une muraille rocheuse, elle est naturellement forte; aussi convient-il plutôt de se préoccuper des points accessibles de la ligne de faîte, les cols, et c'est dans cet esprit que sa proposition a été conçue.

Pour M. le Colonel Bogolubow, il n'y a à discuter ni sur les avantages ni sur les inconvénients que présente le tracé de la nouvelle frontière donné par le Traité: il s'agit simplement de mettre les stipulations du Traité à exécution, et c'est ce qu'a parfaitement compris le Colonel Orero.

M. le Commissaire Russe ne juge cependant pas nécessaire de faire porter sur la partie de frontière en discussion, le onzième alinéa de l'Article II; il trouve donc plus que suffisantes les concessions que le Colonel Orero fait à la défense, néanmoins il se rallie à sa proposition pour ne pas rester isolé.

Le Président, après avoir constaté que la majorité semblait être d'avis de ne pas exclure du débat les arguments fondés sur le onzième alinéa de l'Article II du Traité, mais qu'elle ne se croyait pas en droit d'accorder à la défense dans la partie de frontière considérée la même extension que dans la chaîne du grand Balkan, remarque que la petite différence pouvant encore séparer les Commissaires, tient à l'absence d'une bonne définition du mot crête. Il propose de choisir la ligne du terrain désignée sous le nom de crête militaire.

M. le Général Hamley envisageant l'hypothèse de la non-existence d'une position défensive en arrière ou à hauteur de la crête, demande s'il ne serait pas permis, dans ce cas, de porter la frontière en avant sans englober les hauteurs opposées.

M. le Commissaire Italien fait observer que, selon toute probabilité on ne trouverait pas alors sur le versant septentrional une meilleure position que sur la crête.

M. le Général Hamley insiste alors pour une modification du texte de la proposition discutée, revenant à rédiger comme il suit, le dernier membre de phrase: "Si la Commission le jugeait nécessaire à la défense de la Roumélie Orientale, dans le but de se conformer aux stipulations du onzième alinéa de l'Article II du Traité."

La proposition du Colonel Orero, ainsi amendée, est mise aux voix et adoptée à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne ensuite lecture des cinquième, sixième, et septième alinéas de l'Article II du Traité, et demande si le tracé de ces différentes parties de la frontière soulèverait des questions de principe. La Commission à l'unanimité se prononce pour la négative.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp ayant demandé si la limite administrative de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia, que suit en certaines parties la nouvelle frontière, pourrait être facilement retrouvée sur les lieux, M. le Commissaire Russe dit que les indigènes la montreront sans aucune hésitation. Il cite à l'appui de cette assertion les difficultés suscitées par les habitants des villages Musulmans aux opérations des topographes Russes qui opèrent sur les confins de la Turquie et de la Bulgarie, difficultés telles que sans une démarche de Son Excellence le Prince Lobanoff auprès de la Sublime Porte et sans l'intervention de celle-ci, les levés nécessaires au travail de la Commission n'auraient pu être exécutés.

Une question est ensuite soulevée par MM. les Commissaires Autrichien, Italien, et Russe. La Bulgarie doit-elle être limitée au nord, par la rive droite du Danube, comme le porte le texte du Traité, ou bien par le thalweg du fleuve?

Le Président est disposé à croire qu'une erreur s'est glissée dans la rédaction du texte du Traité; car la frontière de la Roumanie n'ayant pas été modifiée de ce côté, et restant limitée au thalweg du fleuve, il en résulterait qu'une partie du Danube n'appartiendrait à aucun Etat. Il se déclare cependant sans instructions et promet avec les Commissaires d'Allemagne et de Grande Bretagne d'en référer à son Gouvernement.

M. le Général Hamley soumet ensuite la résolution suivante à la Commission:—

"Les questions principales regardant la délimitation ayant été fixées par des votes d'unanimité, à l'avenir le vote de la majorité décidera sur tous les points discutés."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow déclare qu'il se soumettra à la loi de la majorité, tant que la Commission restera dans les limites des principes votés. Sous ces réserves il vote la résolution.

Celle-ci est adoptée à l'unanimité.

M. le Colonel Orero déclare que dans la pensée de son Gouvernement les décisions de la majorité doivent devenir obligatoires non-seulement pour la Commission, mais encore pour les Gouvernements.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne fait pareille déclaration.

Le Président invite la Commission à arrêter le jour de son départ pour les Balkans.

Il est fixé au Lundi, 12 Mai.

Le Président met ensuite l'itinéraire en discussion, et demande s'il est nécessaire que la Commission se transporte tout le long de la frontière ou seulement sur les points qui pourraient être contestés.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha observe que d'après le Traité, la Commission doit fixer le tracé sur les lieux; mais le Président lui rappelle l'interprétation précédemment donnée par la Commission à cette stipulation du Traité.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp est d'avis que la Commission se transporte seulement dans la partie de la frontière où le Traité a laissé des points indéterminés.

M. le Général Hamley croit qu'on verra mieux sur le terrain les points sujets à contestation. Il estime que toute une partie du Balkan mal frayée et impraticable pour les troupes pourrait être simplement parcourue par les topographes.

Le Président, divisant la question, demande s'il est nécessaire que toute la Commission explore la zone frontière du Cadir-Tépé jusqu'à Petricevo. La Commission renvoie cette discussion comme toutes les questions relatives à la fixation de l'itinéraire, au Samedi, 3 Mai.

La séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP,
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:

(Signé) G. MARMIER.
DOUGLAS JONES.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 444.

Protocole No. 20.—Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du VIe Cercle, le 3 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey,
Le Major Chefket Bey,
Le Capitaine Mehmet Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 14 minutes.

Le Protocole No. 19 est lu et adopté.

La Commission discute l'itinéraire à suivre, et sur la proposition de M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp adopte en principe le Tableau de marche ci-après :

19	Mai	..	..	Banja
20-21	,,	..	..	Samakow
22	,,	..	..	Camurli
23-24	,,	..	..	Ichtiman
25	,,	..	..	Rakovica
26-27	,,	..	..	Petricevo
28	,,	..	..	Slatica
29	,,	..	..	Dazanci
30	,,	..	..	Kozuica
31	,,	..	..	Derbend (Klisura)
1-3	Juin	..	..	Rahmanli
4-5	,,	..	..	Karlovo
6-8	Juin	..	..	Kalofer
9-10	,,	..	..	Kazanlik
11	,,	..	..	Schipka
12	,,	..	..	Kazanlik
13-14	,,	..	..	Selica
15	,,	..	..	Maglis
16-18	,,	..	..	Hainkioi
19-23	,,	..	..	Tvardica
24-26	,,	..	..	Slivno
27-28	,,	..	..	Kotel
29-30	,,	..	..	Verbica

Elle attendra d'être en possession des cartes Russes représentant le terrain entre Verbica et la Mer Noire, et entre le Cadir-Tépé et la frontière Serbo-Bulgare pour compléter son itinéraire. M. le Commissaire de Russie s'engage à remettre à la Commission un exemplaire des dites cartes, assez tôt pour que des adjoints de son Excellence Tahir Pacha laissés par lui à Constantinople, puissent reproduire rapidement ces plans et les faire parvenir en temps utile aux Commissaires.

Malgré toute la diligence que la Commission compte apporter à l'accomplissement de sa tâche, plusieurs membres de la Commission prévoient qu'il sera impossible de terminer le travail de délimitation pour le 13 juillet (N. S.), ainsi que le désirent certaines Puissances; aussi propose-t-on de prendre dès à présent des dispositions pour accélérer la marche des travaux, soit en créant une Sous-Commission, soit en constituant des délégations pour pouvoir opérer simultanément sur divers points de la frontière.

La Commission s'arrête à ce dernier parti et adopte la décision suivante :

" Pour les parties de la frontière entre le Karnabad-Balkan et la Mer Noire, comme entre le Cadir-Tépé et la frontière de Serbie, la reconnaissance du terrain pourra s'effectuer par une délégation de la Commission, dans laquelle toutes les

Puissances ou partie d'entre elles seront représentées, La Commission, après avoir entendu le rapport de ses délégations, prendra les décisions relatives à la fixation de la frontière."

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, la séance est levée à 3 heures 30 minutes. On décide de se réunir le Samedi, 10 Mai, pour se concerter sur les dernières mesures à prendre avant le départ.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) G. MARMIER.
DOUGLAS JONES.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 445.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 212.)
My Lord, *Rome, May* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I informed M. Depretis, in an interview I had with his Excellency this morning, that I had received a telegram from your Lordship stating that Her Majesty's Government, in conformity with the views of the Austrian Government, which they entirely shared, had strongly urged the Russian Government that the evacuation ought to be completed by the 3rd July, two months giving, in the opinion of Her Majesty's, abundant time for that operation.

M. Depretis said that he entirely shared this opinion, and added, in reply to an inquiry I made, that he would so express himself at St. Petersburgh.

His Excellency informed me that the Austrian Ambassador, who had just left him, had read him a despatch from Count Andrassy, giving an account of a conversation he had had with Count Schouvaloff on this subject, in which Count Schouvaloff had stated that, *de jure*, the occupation was to be considered at an end on the 3rd May, but that the evacuation couldnot be actually effected before the 3rd August. Count Andrassy, however, would not admit this, and insisted on its being carried out in six weeks, but two months from the 3rd May was the term which M. Depretis understood to have been ultimately agreed upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 446.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Rome, May* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 22 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have informed M. Depretis that Count Schouvaloff had stated to your Lordship that the Russian Government have fully agreed that the Eastern Roumelian Commission, in deciding upon the question of whether the Turkish troops should be summoned for the purpose of suppressing disorder, should decide by majority, and his Excellency expressed satisfaction at hearing that this principle, for which the Italian Government had likewise contended, had been accepted by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 447.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 216.)
Rome, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 267 of the 8th instant, and to inform your Lordship that, in my interview with M. Depretis this morning, I stated to his Excellency, with reference to the inquiry which he made, as reported in my despatch No. 180A of the 25th ultimo, whether Her Majesty's Government were not of opinion that the time had arrived when the Roumanian Government should be recognized in the same formal manner as the Servian Government had been, that the British Agent is now on his way home from Bucharest, and that Her Majesty's Government would wish to consult him before taking the step in question, but that the Italian Government should be informed whenever they decide upon the formal recognition of Roumania, for which communication M. Depretis expressed his acknowledgments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 448.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 217.)
Rome, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 268 of the 9th instant, instructing me to convey to M. Depretis the acknowledgements of Her Majesty's Government for the frank and friendly manner in which he met and replied to my representations, as reported in my despatch No. 177 of the 25th ultimo on the subject of recent events in Egypt, and to inform your Lordship that I have read that despatch to his Excellency, who was evidently much pleased with, and expressed his thanks for, this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 449.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 218.)
Rome, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches Nos. 263 and 269 of the 7th and 8th instant relative to the question raised by the Italian Government as to the action to be taken in the event of the Turkish Government endeavouring to raise a new loan on the security of the revenues still unpledged, or of diverting in favour of the new creditors the revenues which have already been pledged in security for foreign loans; and to inform your Lordship that I have read those despatches to M. Depretis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 450.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 221.)
Rome, May 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 199 of the 6th instant, reporting that M. Depretis had promised to furnish me with a copy of the map showing the frontier which M. Goudematis suggests should be ceded to Greece, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency told me yesterday that I should certainly receive this map by this morning; but, it not having reached me, I have sent to make inquiries at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and am now informed that the map, which is to

be accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum, cannot possibly be ready until this evening, and I fear, therefore, probably too late for this week's messenger.

I may take this opportunity of mentioning that the Government is being somewhat severely taken to task by the Opposition Press, in consequence of articles which have appeared in the Greek Press, commenting on the apparent lukewarmness of the Italian Ministry in the Greek cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 451.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 222.)
Rome, May 13, 1879, 8 P.M.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 221 of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit the accompanying two maps which have just reached me from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with two copies of an explanatory Memorandum, which time does not admit of being translated before the departure of the messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Memorandum respecting the New Boundaries of Greece, according to the 13th Protocol of the Berlin Congress.

(Translation.)

Part I.—*Epirus.*

The Valley of the Calamas.—I introduce my description and remarks by a general sketch of the valley. The Calamas springs from the spurs of the Nemertsica chain, which flanks for more than 60 kilom., in the direction north-west to south-east, the rugged course of the Voiuzza, a very humble rivulet which derives its origin from two scanty springs, one called Kefáli in Greek, the other Glava in the Slav language, both signifying what we call head. It runs about 10 kilom. in the wide and elevated Valley of Vissiani, where the hills on the right and left bank rise but gently, and the fords are as easy as if the streamlet ran in a plain. When it reaches the vicinities of Ravegna, the ground rises gradually and incloses the waters of the juvenile Calamas between high rocks of as picturesque appearance as ever. Very charming is the picture presented by those rocks on the road that leads from Janina to Santi-Quaranta. This road, when almost perpendicular to the stream, reaches the level of the water with many very sudden bends, and crosses it by a ford of easy passage in summer time. In winter the communications are cut off there, and a bridge has to be sought more to the south, or a ford in the high valley above-mentioned.

On leaving that group of the Ravegna hills, the plain becomes wider and smoother for the river for a space of 15 kilom., and the course of the stream is made more imposing by the copious fountains of Aiuss, which flow into it on the left, and by the outflow of the deep Lake of Tsarovina, of which it receives the waters on the right.

Then, again, confined between the steep hills on one side and the chain of Kartsunista on the other, it opens a very different passage between the perpendicular rocks which embarrass its course. In this track is the very beautiful cascade of Glidjani, as well as the so-called God's Bridge (Theùjèfira), a group of rocks under which the waters have perforated an outlet, notwithstanding the hardness of the stone which opposed their passage. Having passed that bridge, and still rushing downwards with remarkable differences of level, and through very narrow and deep ravines, the river at length reaches the plain after passing the hills of Raiko and Burdari, that is, after a struggling course of about 12 kilom.* There it receives on the left a copious affluent called the Veleista River, which, they say in country, is a subterraneous issue from the Lake of Janina. I shall not stop to inquire whether this is true; I only

* Lately, I am told, the river has changed its course, and the well-known cascade has disappeared, as well as God's Bridge; I have not been able to verify the change myself.

say that it is possible and probable, after a brief examination of the ground, and from the fact that the Velcista River issues from the bottom of the rocks near that village, not at all like a nascent little torrent, but as a broad and deep watercourse.

At the point where the Calamas receives the Velcista waters it runs in a perfect plain, and is fordable in many places, except in the great floods. The road leading from Janina to Filates and Saïada crosses it there. A little further on the Calamas pushes again through a clump of hills of different form and height, almost always woody, and intermingling with each other, as if the heights of the two banks formed part of one orographical system slowly divided into two by the river; there are no other fords anywhere up to the mouth; the waters run on almost always narrow and deep, and whoever wants to pass over them has to trust to a fragile contrivance for crossing which is to be met with here and there at the most frequented places of passage. In this part of its course the Calamas receives on the left the waters of the Baldeness, which form the river of Dramscinss, and those of the Olitsica as well as of the Suli mountains, which united in a single course in the district of Curenda, just by the village of Buriless, fall into the Calamas at Vursim under the name of Langaftsa, or Longovitsa.

On the right the affluents are much more numerous, and the heights more imposing: thus the waters of Zelitsa come down there between Cuce and Levtokarià; those more plentiful of Lista fall in between Levtokarià and Ravenì; those of Ciamanda by Jeromèr; Fenarumen and Finik come there too, without mentioning the minor ones of Keramnitza, Plessovitsa, Koska, and so on. I have said that the heights on the right are more imposing; in fact, the summits of Maluni and Cheramnitza, each 1,000 metres high, tower above the Calamas, and in general the hills are more elevated there as offshoots of the near and lofty mountains of Ciamanda, which separate the Valley of the Calamas from those of the Pavla, the Colascioti, and the Bistritsa. But even on the left bank there is no lack of considerable heights at some points, and from Vursina downward the bank of the river gradually rises on the flanks of the Palio-Marco up to the lofty summits of the Labanitsa. The river has opened a passage between the links that once united the Labanitsa to the mountains of Ciamanda, and more exactly the Palio-Marco to the Mountain of Maluni, and thus separated the two systems. In the lower part of its course, almost up to its mouth, the Calimas runs between hills; but having passed Sulisi on one side and Vrisseh on the other, just after rounding the isolated mountain of Scupitsa, it finally turns its waters into an open plain, and falls into the sea in front of the Island of Corfù, carrying a great deal of mud and sand to the outlet, and these, continually thrust forward by the whirling and violent waves, threaten to stop the navigation of the vast roadstead of Gomenitza before very long.

In order to give a result in figures, I should say that the Valley of the Calamas, including the Plain of Janina, which may be considered as a dependency of the affluents on the left, contains in all an area of 4,500 square kilom. The course of the river itself may be estimated at 110 kilom. from its rise to its mouth, but the course of its greatest affluents is not more than 30 kilom. The average width of the river is 50 metres; the average depth from 2 to 3 metres; the velocity great, though I am not able to represent it in figures. Compared with our Italian rivers, it corresponds almost exactly with the basin of the Arno, but its area is not equal to half that of the Tiber; for width and depth of current it may likewise be compared with the Arno, though often more confined, and, therefore, deeper.

It is easy now for me to explain the line which the new boundary would have to follow, and I say at once that in the lower part of the course, if the limits be carried to the bank of the river, they will not constitute a good line of defence for the Greeks, whilst they certainly will give the Turks a good one. And here are the proofs of this. Along the right bank there is no break in the hills from Vrisela up to the sources, and they often have the aspect of mountains. There is no open pass save at one point only, that is, between Levtokarià and Cuce, a pass which might conduct the Greeks into the Valley of Argirocastro; but even this is easily defensible from the hills of Cuce and Levtokarià, which command that very short valley, and would make it dangerous enough to those who might be so bold as to venture there; whereas, on the left bank the Greeks would have to increase the defences at the following points:—1. Towards the mouth, where, on passing the river, an enemy would enter the heart of the Ciamuria by various easy passes. 2. Between Mavrudhi and Larinsi, whence, by a slight ascent, Gomenitsa may be reached, and thence again the heart of the Ciamuria. 3. Between Menina and Vrisopula, a flat place and wide valley, open

to any attack, and which leads to the ancient Justinian camp or Valley of Paramithia, from which, once occupied, it would be easy to threaten Prevesa, either by the heights of Lutsa, or by the Pass of Topolia, or by other passages little known, but not insuperable, on the Suli Mountains. 4. Between Vursina and Girbovo, in the valley of the Langaftsa, which leads to Janina. 5. Between Suli and Velcista, whence it is easy to get to Janina by the villages called Grameno-horia. 6. Between Doliana and Kalbachi, where the road passes from Janina to Santi-Quaranta. 7. Above Ravegna, whence Greek Epirus might be taken in the rear, thus descending to the Plain of Janina by the Pass of Kalbaki, or that of Dobra, or lower down by the passes of Balduma towards the Plain of Arta.

To obviate this objection it would be expedient either to recede on the left bank or to advance on the right bank. In the latter case it would be indispensable, for the sake of a defensible line, to go up to the watershed of the Calamas and of the other rivers, Parla, Bistrizz, and Erin, following the ridges of Saïada, Liopesi, Verva, Coska, Plessovitsa, Fenarumen, and to arrive in this way at Lista, whence following the ridges which separate the Drin from the Calamas the line would pass by Zelista to the chain of Kartsunista, and would reach the Pass of Delvinachi, which would be possessed by the two States. From that pass, following the summits which command Tsarovina and Vissiani, and which separate the waters of Paleopogoni, or of the Drin, from those of Calamas, the line would go up to the snowy heights of the Nemertsica, and would follow these up to their gradual junction with the chain of the Micikeli, and of this with the Zigo of Metsovo, including this last city within the Greek boundary, but, as a matter of course, leaving the Voidomati outside, which the Greeks unreasonably include in their pretensions, passing thus from the basin of the Calamas to that of the Voiuzza.

As, however, it is impossible to suppose that European intervention will decide upon giving Greece more than was conceded to her at Berlin, let us now examine the other boundary, that is, the one which would be obtained by receding on the left bank. Whereas, for the sake of finding a defensive line on the right bank, I have considered it necessary to mount up to the summits which there inclose the basin of the Calamas, so I consider it indispensable to mount also to the summits on the left bank, and to follow the watershed of the basin, where it comes in contact with the basins of the Mavro Potamos and of the Luro.

We ought not to forget, in fact, that if in a plain any short line of hills or any watercourse may serve as a limit in mountainous countries like Epirus, the abandonment of the summits increases the difficulties of a good defence at every step we take. It is only towards its sources that the Calamas has facilities of communication and community of ownership between the two banks, but if in its lower course it constitutes a real obstacle against every attack, still it requires from the Greeks an abundance of military measures far beyond their means, if they wish to have their frontier well guarded, whilst from the Turks it would demand no other sacrifice than a few bodies of Albanian volunteers, and one or two forts in the places most exposed to attack. And in case it should be expedient to recede, it would be necessary to leave the two banks of the Calamas in the possession of the Turks, and to select on the hills of Mavrudhi, Varfa, Rizani, Bedelen, up to their conjunction with the mountain of Labanitsa, a strategical line that would be capable of defending the boundary in the lower part of the river's course. Then from the Labanitsa it would be well to proceed to the Pass of Seliani, which might remain in the possession of the Greeks without danger to the Turks, considering the difficulties of crossing the river there. From the Pass of Seliani, ascending the opposite summit, that is, the real Labanitsa, the line would proceed to the Pass of Lefterohori, where the road runs from Janina to Paramithià, Margariti, and Parga; that pass ought also to remain in the possession of the Greeks, or it might be jointly occupied, as it would be quite sufficient if two forts were erected there, one at the outlet towards Janina, the other at that towards Paramithià. The Greek boundary would then ascend the Vritsaca and the summits of the Suli Mountains, descending to Liviesta on the hills which unite those mountains to the Olitsica, and serve as watershed to the two basins of the Calamas and of the Mavropotamos, leaving Lipa to the Greeks and Tseritsana to the Turks. At the summit of the Olitsica the doubt begins; ought the Valley of Janina to be included in the boundaries or not? Is it a dependency of the basin of the Calamas, or is it not? That plain is a trough; it has no apparent relations with the basin of any river; it is said there may be underground communications with that of the Arta and of the Calamas, then it is no matter whether it be isolated or included. Still, I should say that Greece will have a better frontier by giving it up than by insisting upon

having it, for if she insists, the boundary can only follow the easy heights of Melingùs, which separate the basin of the Luro from that of the Calamas; then the no less easy ones of S. Nicola, S. Sava, Cosmirà, Sadovitsa, Rodotop, Protopapa, Gavresciuss, and Negades, to reach thence the summits of the Miceheli. Now these heights which I indicate, though they are all more than 700 metres above the level of the sea, yet not one of them is more than 300 metres above the level of the Plain of Janina, and they have numerous passes, one towards Melingus, another towards S. Nicola, a third to Cosmira, a fourth to Lioko, a fifth to Conska, a sixth to Sadovitsa, a seventh to Rodotop, an eighth to Protopapa, a ninth to Gavresciuss, a tenth to Negades, without reckoning the minor passages. Greece, therefore, would have to go to very considerable expenses to maintain possession of that plain, which, though well defended to south and east, is entirely open to west and north. My advice would be then, strategically speaking, to abandon Janina and its trough, in order to follow from the Olitsica the southern heights which put that high mountain in almost immediate contact with the Xerovuni, and this with the Micicheli by the steep hills of the Drisco, separating the two basins of the Luro and of the Arta from the trough of Janina. Then from the Micicheli the line is naturally indicated by the watershed heights between the Voiuzza and the river of Arta, whose respective sources are in Pindus, at the Mountain of Gianeurtaran.

In this way Greece would have a good frontier, and the Berlin line would thereby be respected in its general limits as indicated by the words "ce tracé pourrait suivre la vallée du Calamas." I do not treat here either of ethnographical reasons or of local aspirations; these have been discussed elsewhere; I need only repeat that such a frontier would not dissipate Albanian susceptibilities. My aim has been to examine strategical reasons, and I say again that these counsel the Greeks to abandon Janina and compel them to pass over the Calamas as I have said above, or to penetrate into the basin of the Voiuzza, as they themselves have hitherto claimed to do, according to their interpretation of the Berlin line.

Part II.—*Thessaly.*

I shall not describe the Selimbria at such length as I have the Calamas, since I am but little acquainted with it, and since a glance at the map will very easily show its course, even to those who know least of geographical science. I will only say that more than half its course runs in a plain, and the other half is inclosed in deep gorges. Near the mouth is the renowned vale of Tempe, about which poets and travellers have wearied themselves in writing; there the river has forced a passage between the Kissovo and Olympus, and for 20 kilom. it is locked in as between two very high walls. Towards the source the thousand ramifications of Pindus offer considerable obstructions to its route, but the mountains glide into hills and the hills into mounds, until when it gets beyond Tricala it finds no other obstacle to its free progress till it passes Larissa. It receives many affluents in half its course; near Larissa on the right the outflow of Lake Karla falls into it; at last, near the Vale of Tempe it receives the greatest of its affluents on the left, that is, the Vurgaris or Sarandaporo, the ancient Titaresius, near the banks of which Perseus sustained his terrible defeat. The Selimbria is the only river of Thessaly, and it may be said that Thessaly and Valley of the Selimbria mean the same thing; thus any one who gives the area of the basin of that river indicates the area of all Thessaly. Now that basin represents an area of 20,000 kilom., so it is much more extensive than Tuscany, and exceeds the basin of the largest Italian rivers, the Po excepted. The length of its course may be estimated at 220 kilom.; the Vurgaris, its largest affluent, runs 120; and its other affluents on the right little less than 100 kilom.; these are the Pendemiti and the Forsalities, which unite before they fall into the Selimbria.

This short description suffices to show that the bank of the Selimbria cannot be a strategical boundary. Besides, in summer it is fordable in many places; moreover, there are village properties divided between the two banks in the upper part of its course, and then it must be remembered that the communications are not only easy, but indispensable, and, Volo being the only port, Greece would necessarily have to put up with such Turkish intrusion in her own country. Again, how would Greece defend such a frontier of 220 kilom., all open, all easily passed? Excellent, perhaps, towards the sources, though still inferior to the Turkish, considering the easiness of the passages which Greece would have to defend, at the Zigo at Castania, and lower down at Glizades and Cureliès; excellent, again, at the mouth from the rugged wildness of the Vale of Tempe; in the middle it would require enormous expenses

To face page 350.

RETTIFICAZIONE DELLA FRONTIERA TURCO-ELLENICA SECONDO UN NUOVO PROGETTO.

To face page 350.

and a very considerable military cordon; but there would be no similar necessity for Turkey; it would be sufficient for her to guard the two or three passes which lead into the district of Grevino and that most important one of Vlaholivado, which goes from one side to Katerina, and from the other to Servia, in the Valley of the Bistrizza or Ingrè Karasù. It is no complicated matter to choose a better frontier in Thessaly; we must either fall back to the present boundary, or we must embrace the whole basin. Thessaly is indivisible; it has its own natural boundaries, but it has none within itself that would serve to cut it in two. The Selimbria is an artery of communication; it is a link between rather than an obstacle to the population on the two banks. In case no other argument avails, let this one do so: that the people have always been one people only, both historically and ethnographically, nor can we imagine an upper and a lower Thessaly; if the ancients divided it in any way, it was into flat and mountainous, but not otherwise.

I think it advantageous for the Greeks that they insist upon the cession of the whole of Thessaly rather than of a part, and that they should, consequently, renounce so much of Epirus as may be in proportion to the greater part of Thessaly that would be awarded to them. I, therefore, propose the following boundary:—

Starting from the Gulf of Arta, the frontier shall follow the ancient line up to Mount Chelona (Alinda on the map); thence it shall ascend the western arm of Pindus, which flanks the left bank of the Aspropotamos by the summits of Giumorika, Kakardish, Peristeri, and Cincarèla, up to the Zigo or Pass of Metsovo, in central Pindus. In this track Sculicaria, Müeri, Lupsista, Vurgareli, Melissurgus, Matzuki, Prozgoli, Metsovo, will be left to Turkey; Sunerùs and Teodoriana will stay with Greece. From the Zigo onward the boundary will follow the summits which serve as watershed between the basin of the Selimbria and that of the Ingè-Karasù or Bistrizza, and which put Pindus in communication with Olympus. Having reached this last summit of the Labanica Hill, the line would follow any counterfort leading to the sea at an intermediate point between Katerina and Platamona.

There would remain only one notable difficulty, that of the passes, which are not always such as to allow of contemporaneous occupation; whilst these would be very scarce and difficult between the two valleys of the Aspropotamos and of the Arta; on the other hand, there are several between Thessaly and the basin of Bistrizza. Perhaps it would be expedient to adopt a system of compensation, leaving the Turks in possession of the two passes which lead to Servia and to Katerina, and consigning to the Greeks those which lead directly from Calabak and Grevinò. As to the Pass of the Zigo, I think the Turks might safely leave it in the hands of the Greeks, for they have in the vicinities other heights and other successive passes which they can make use of for a good defence of Epirus.

The limit which I have traced would cede to Greece 20,000 square kilom. in Thessaly, besides the entire Valley of the Aspropotamos, or 2,000 kilom. more, making an aggregate area of 22,000 square kilom., with at least 350,000 inhabitants. The Berlin line does not give Greece more than 26,000 square kilom., with 420,000 inhabitants, and if this be reduced to more modest boundaries for strategical reasons, that line will not reach the 20,000 square kilom. from Thessaly, so that Greece gains there in every respect—civil, political, ethnographical, economical, strategical—and would be unmindful of her real interests were she to renounce this. As for Turkey, it will be less of a hardship for her to cede the whole of Thessaly than a considerable part of Epirus; having renounced Volo, Thessaly is lost to her, and she knows it; the part that would remain to her does not exceed 700 kilom. in area, with 120,000 inhabitants, and in ceding it she regains an area of 10,000 square kilom. and 180,000 inhabitants; but that which concerns her to gain is the integrity of her provinces. Divided as they are both are lost to her. Better then to give up one definitively, and to maintain the other intact, with such boundaries as may avail to preserve it from every future conflict.

APPROXIMATE STATISTICS.

	Area.	Population.
	Sq. kilog.	
(*a.*) Berlin Line:—		
In Epirus (without the Valley of the Aspropotamos, and with the greatest claim of the Greeks)	9,950	160,000
In Thessaly	14,350	257,000
Valley of the Aspropotamos	2,000	30,000
Total	26,300	447,000
(*b.*) Berlin Line reduced in Epirus for strategical reasons:—		
In Epirus (reduced line)	8,500	140,000
In Thessaly	14,350	257,000
Valley of the Aspropotamos	2,000	30,000
Total reduced	24,850	427,000
(*c.*) Line offered by the Turks at Prevesa:—		
In Epirus	2,000	34,000
In Thessaly	5,000	86,000
Total	7,000	120,000
(*d.*) Line proposed in the present paper:—		
Valley of the Aspropotamos	2,000	30,000
In Thessaly (Berlin line)	14,350	257,000
In Thessaly (beyond the Berlin line)	6,250	100,000
Total	22,600	387,000
Difference between the Berlin Line and the present project:—		
Berlin Line	26,300	447,000
Present project	22,600	387,000
Difference*	3,700	60,000

No. 452.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 209.)
Constantinople, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a translation of an article from the "Maritza," as well as of a list taken from the same journal, of new appointments made by General Stolipine in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 453.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 210.)
Constantinople, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

ON Friday Lord Donoughmore and myself were invited to spend the afternoon with His Majesty the Sultan, in the grounds of his Palace of Yildis.

I had a long conversation with several of the Ministers, amongst others, with Said Pasha and Namyk Pasha. These two statesmen declared themselves anxious for the immediate adaptation of our Statute to all the provinces of the Empire, Asiatic as well as European. They acknowledged that the past government of

* Taking into account that the greatest claim of the Greeks may reasonably be reduced, at least in regard to the passage in the valley of the Vouzza, the difference between one line and the other is not much, for it comes to little more than 2,000 sq. kilom. and 35,000 inhabitants. In compensation for such renunciation Greece and Turkey gain so many advantages that they cannot but comply with it spontaneously.

Turkey had become impossible, and suggested of themselves the absolute necessity of decentralization and self-government. I myself said very little, and indeed, during a conversation of more than an hour, they required no encouragement to express these views in the strongest language.

Hairedd'in Pasha re-echoed them, but in a more moderate degree. He was anxious, however, that I should proceed to Philippopolis without delay, and I promised to go there to-morrow.

Later the Sultan, having requested Lord Donoughmore and myself to stay, begged us earnestly and anxiously to tell him our views as to the present state and possible future of the Mussulman population in the province.

I replied, that at present they were emigrating in large numbers, but I hoped and really believed that when the Russians had retired, and things had settled down, they would not be ill-treated by the Bulgarians. This view was confirmed by Lord Donoughmore, who, before leaving Philippopolis, had heard from the head of the Conseil d'Arrondissement of Yeni-Zaghra, M. Edrezoff, that there were three villages, two wholly Turkish and one mixed, surrounded by Bulgarian villages, where they all had until lately lived on good terms with each other. It was not until the Bulgarians were urged by Russian threats and persuasion that the Turks were ill-treated.

On Saturday the Grand Vizier gave a dinner to the Commission. Carathéodory Pasha there informed me that General Stolipine was coming to Constantinople, and his Excellency begged me not to leave for Philippopolis before hearing further from him on the subject.

Both the Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha were of opinion, since the apparently peaceable disposition of the Bulgarians had been displayed, that it would be useless, and perhaps mischievous, for the Commission to prolong its stay in the province after the inauguration of Aleko Pasha.

Last night Colonel Vitalis called on me in a state of great excitement, having just returned from Philippopolis. Prince Tzerctelew had arrived by the same train. The object of Colonel Vitalis' journey was to advise the Commission that General Stolipine still refused to recognize him, and he believed it was intended, through Aleko Pasha, to obtain the nomination of Colonel Kisiakoff in his place.

As I do not consider myself empowered, while at Constantinople, to take any but unofficial steps in matters of this kind, I requested Colonel Vitalis to call on Her Majesty's Ambassador at Therapia and lay the circumstances before his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 454.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 295. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 13, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON CALICE tells me confidentially that Baron Longenau has telegraphed that the Russian Government had learnt with the greatest satisfaction from your Lordship's speech in the House of Lords on the 5th instant, that Her Majesty's Government fully admitted Russia to be under no obligation to have completed the evacuation of East Roumelia before the 3rd August, and that as the Austro-Hungarian Government seemed to stand alone in putting a different interpretation on the Treaty, the Emperor, while most anxious that the evacuation should take place as quickly as possible, must decline to enter into the engagement for shortening the period by a month, as had been proposed by Count Andrassy.

Baron Calice said that Count Andrassy hoped that Her Majesty's Government would join in insisting that there should at all events be no further delay.

I replied, that upon this point he need be under no apprehension, as your Lordship had more than once declared that on no pretext whatever must the evacuation be delayed beyond the proper period, and that, moreover, you had never stated, as was incorrectly reported in the papers, that it need not be brought to an end till the 3rd of August, and further, that you held that it was to be conducted with all reasonable dispatch, so that by the 3rd August no Russian soldier should be found to the south or east of the Pruth.

The difference between the views of Her Majesty's Government and those of Count Andrassy upon this question has produced a mischievous impression here, for

the whole of the public had adopted his Excellency's interpretation of the Treaty, and those who are ill-disposed towards England are not backward in insinuating that Austria has been thrown over by us, and would have done better to make friends in other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 455.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 296.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 13, 1879.*

GENERAL IGNATIEFF, who has been making a stay here of ten days or a fortnight, on his way from Italy to his estates in Russia, has kept himself completely in the background, neither calling upon Count Andrassy nor upon any of his old acquaintances, with the exception of the German and Italian Ambassadors.

I understand, however, that, according to his usual custom, he has seen many persons connected with the public press, to whom he has exhibited much bitterness against his own Government, which he describes as being conducted by utterly incapable men, after whose failure he himself must be called in to put matters to rights.

He has especially endeavoured to convince his visitors of the existence of a settled plan on the part of the Austrian Government to push on to Salonica, the project (of which he says he has certain cognizance) being to establish one of the Imperial Archdukes as Ruler in Albania

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 456.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 13, 1879.*

BARON KALLAY has requested to be furnished with minute instructions with reference to the duties that the European Commission will be expected to perform during the extended period to be allotted to it; but Count Andrassy did not consider it desirable to go into details, and has sent him instructions that I understand to be much in the same general terms as in those sent by your Lordship to Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch to me No. 321 of the 8th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 457.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 14, 1879.*

OUT of deference to the urgently expressed desire of the Porte, the Austrian Government had consented, not very willingly, to defer the publication of the Convention concluded at Constantinople respecting the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina and of the Novi-Bazar district; and some surprise was felt when the last post brought the semi-official Constantinople newspaper, "La Turquie," containing the whole text.

As it only appeared yesterday in the local papers, it is still too early to speak with confidence of the manner in which it is regarded by the public; but its reception does not appear to have been favourable either by those who advocate or those who oppose a policy of annexation. The one party considers it a Convention that might fairly have been made before the occupation was attempted, and the other is indignant at the guarantee for the continuance of the Prayer for the Sultan, for the exhibition of the

Turkish flag on the minarets, and for the currency of the Turkish coin. There is also a large class, in which it is presumed that the military may be reckoned, who look upon Bosnia and the Herzegovina simply as provinces won by the Imperial army, that should be retained by right of conquest.

It may therefore be foretold that the opportunity of renewing the attacks on Count Andrassy's foreign policy will not be lost by his opponents, who are already insinuating that he would not have ventured to publish the Convention, and that the public here would have been kept in ignorance of it, but for the indiscretion of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 458.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 304.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 15, 1879.*

I HAD the honour this morning to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 52, stating that you had protested against the proposal that Prince Battenberg should visit all the Courts of Europe before taking up his Government, but upon talking of it to Count Andrassy I found that his Excellency had already intimated his acceptance of it upon the understanding that it was to be at the Prince's request that the provisional régime was prolonged for the time necessary for him to make the tour.

His Excellency was extremely vexed that he had not been acquainted with your Lordship's views before returning this answer, as he regrets any difference in the language of the two Governments, even upon matters of secondary importance; but it had seemed to him that, as the Prince had been to Livadia, it would be desirable for him also to visit the Courts of the other Treaty Powers, so as to avoid the appearance of his being only a nominee or protégé of Russia.

His Highness will consequently be at Vienna on Wednesday next.

Count Andrassy says that it is understood that this delay in the Prince's arrival in Bulgaria must not in any way retard the evacuation of the Principality by the Russian troops.

His Excellency could not tell me whether Constantinople was included among the capitals which Prince Battenberg proposed to visit; and as at Livadia he was within thirty hours of it, it would have been more becoming if he had taken the opportunity of paying his respects to his Suzerain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 459.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 306. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 15, 1879.*

I LEARN from Count Andrassy that he has received a telegram from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, stating that the Sultan still makes a point of the abrogation of the Secret Article of the Novi-Bazar Convention, but that His Majesty would be willing to agree to a one-sided arrangement, according to which Austria would be bound to assist Turkey in the case of any attack upon her in the occupied districts, without any reciprocal obligation upon Turkey in the event of an attack upon the Austrian troops.

The Imperial Government seem surprised that such a proposal should have been submitted to them, and entirely declines to entertain it.

Count Zichy will consequently be authorized to expunge the Secret Article altogether.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 460.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 244.)
Berlin, May 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE repeatedly had occasion to inform your Lordship of the disappointment felt by the German Government at the attitude assumed by Her Majesty's Government in regard to the Article XXIV of the Berlin Treaty respecting the rectification of the Greek frontier.

The German Government, who feel strongly on the subject, had hoped for a more energetic support in favour of Greece on the part of England than Her Majesty's Government have hitherto seen fit to afford to the combined wishes of Germany and France, and I notice that the reports lately received at Berlin from the German Representatives at London and Paris have only tended to increase that feeling of disappointment and regret.

To-day's messenger from England has brought me your Lordship's despatch No. 255 of the 13th instant, inclosing Mr. Malet's despatches Nos. 309 and 324 of the 11th and 18th ultimo, on the subject of the Greek frontier, according to which Her Majesty's Government had offered the Porte to save the towns of Janina and Larissa if the matter were placed absolutely in their hands.

I should be wanting in my duty to Her Majesty's Government if I hesitated to state frankly to your Lordship that a knowledge of that offer, which must strengthen the resistance of the Porte and weaken the mediation of the Powers under Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, will have the effect of alienating the policy of the German Government from that of England, and of increasing her support of the policy of France in regard to Eastern affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 461.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 246.)
Berlin, May 16, 1879.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 226 of the 14th instant, inclosing Mr. Corbett's No. 106 of the 22nd ultimo, I called to-day on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and communicated to him the circumstance related in that despatch.

I also gave his Excellency a copy of the letter of the Greek Minister of Public Instruction, M. Deligiani, to the Nomarch of Attica, of the 29th October, 1877, forwarded by Mr. Sampson to Mr. Corbett, and I said that it seemed to Her Majesty's Government that it would not be in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin to exclude from the benefits of the LXIInd Article the inhabitants of those parts of Thessaly and Epirus which may, as the result of pending negotiations, be placed under the authority of the Government of Athens, since it was the manifest intention of the Signatory Powers that the subjects of the Sultan should continue to enjoy the religious liberty which recent Ottoman legislation had already bestowed upon them, and that similar advantage should be also secured to those populations who, by the action of the Congress, were in the position of being transferred from the rule of His Imperial Majesty to that of some other potentate.

M. de Bülow replied that he would inquire into the circumstances your Lordship had instructed me to communicate to him, and that he had, meanwhile, no hesitation in stating that he fully concurred in the principles enunciated by your Lordship, and that the German Government attached the highest importance to the strict execution of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin which provide efficacious securities for the establishment of religious liberty in the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 462.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
Tirnovo, May 18, 1879.

TO-DAY arrived from Constantinople the Russian Commissary, and the German Delegate came yesterday: the French and Italian Delegates are expected shortly; there is no new Turkish and Austrian Representative. Prince Alexander will leave Crimea to-morrow or Monday to visit European Courts, including England, and will come to Tirnovo, through Constantinople and Varna, in about six weeks.

No. 463.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, May 18, 1879.

AN official telegram from Livadia has been published here stating that the Bulgarian Deputation reached Livadia on the evening of the 15th, and at 11 next morning presented to the Prince of Bulgaria the Protocol of his elevation to the Bulgarian throne. At noon the Prince, at the head of the Deputation, was received by the Emperor, to whom he addressed the following speech in French:—

"After having received from the Representatives of the Bulgarian people the Protocol concerning my election, I deem it my duty to offer, at the head of the Bulgarian Deputation, thanks to your Majesty as the liberator of our people."

The Deputation were invited to the Imperial table, and were also presented to the Empress.

No. 464.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, May 19, 1879, 11·45 p.m.

I SHOULD not advise instructions placing Aleko so entirely in the hands of the Commission. They will have no powers of compulsion, as within the terms of the Statute his authority is unrestricted. His relations with them should therefore be as little galling as possible.

No. 465.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 702.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 19, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 433 of the 17th instant, you will have learned from mine of this day (No. 77) that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is not advisable that Aleko Pasha should be placed so entirely in the hands of the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia as is proposed by Prince Labanoff. Her Majesty's Government consider that the relations of the Governor-General with the Commissioners should be as little galling to him as possible. It must be remembered that within the terms of the Organic Statute recently drawn up his authority will be unrestricted, and the Commission will therefore in fact have no powers of compulsion over him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 466.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 20.)

Constantinople, le 19 Mai, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

SON Excellence Aleko Pacha, ayant reçu son Firman, compte partir Samedi prochain pour Philippopoli. La Commission Européenne l'accompagnera. Sa Majesté le Sultan a déjà sanctionné le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

Vous pouvez en informer le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 467.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 72, Jomini says that Prince Labanoff has merely telegraphed back a repetition of what he telegraphed in March. I urged him to request Labanoff at once to telegraph date on which Osman Agha had been released, as, otherwise, people might assert that he was still in prison.

No. 468.

Mr. Walpole to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *May 19, 1879.*

OSMAN BEY will be sent, under a Russian escort, to Adrianople to-morrow, and released on platform at railway station there.

No. 469.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 439.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 19, 1879.*

PORTE is desirous that delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier should continue, and that the part near Gorica (?) in dispute should be reserved for future decision, the fact being recorded in a Protocol by the Commission, which would then proceed with their work from Megured and Halimbid to Harmsubs, according to the XXVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs would feel greatly obliged to your Lordship if you would support this arrangement.

No. 470.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 19, 1879.*

M. DEPRETIS entirely agrees in views stated in your Lordship's despatch No. 282 of 14th instant as to necessity of securing religious liberty for territory to be ceded to Greece.

No. 471.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 19, 1879.*

PRINCE BATTENBERG is expected here to-morrow evening. If he asks anything about going to London what shall I say?

No. 472.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 19, 1879.*

REFERRING to telegram from Constantinople, communicated to me by your telegram of the 16th instant, I have made inquiries respecting encounter and slaughter near Tricalla: nothing has been heard of it here.

Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires has, by order of his Government, remonstrated with the Hellenic Government on reported presence of Greek soldiers on 30th April among brigands killed near Pachali in Thessaly. If any Greek soldiers were implicated they must have been disbanded Voltigeurs, whose uniforms are their own property.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 473.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *May 19, 1879.*

FORTNIGHT has elapsed since last meeting owing to illness of Russian Commissioner. His assistant appeared at the meeting to-day, and although he told me that he was to have full powers, he has to refer all points in dispute to his Chief. This will cause great delay, entailing expense on Her Majesty's Government.

First subject under discussion was Karaourgan. Russia, in spite of the President's statement at the first meeting (see Protocol), sought to reopen question of right of Her Majesty's Government to assist in determination of point west of Karaourgan, and as he began to talk of Ziwin my suspicions were aroused. After hearing explanation, I said that although I could not renounce my right to fix the point on the part of Her Majesty's Government, still I was prepared, in order to facilitate matters, to accept a point west of Karaourgan actually on the frontier already delimitated as a point of departure for our discussions. This point is on the crest of the hills, at a distance of 700 yards. Russian will ask instructions from Commissioner.

No. 474.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 20, 1879.*

COMMISSION convoked for to-morrow. Aleko starts Saturday. I leave Friday.

No. 475.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1879, 5·10 P.M.*

PRESS the Exequaturs for Anatolia as hard as you can.

No. 476.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1879, 5·15 P.M.*

YOURS 439.

I have instructed Captain Sale to support proposed arrangement.

No. 477.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

PLEASE communicate to Captain Sale the following message from me:—

"I have received from Sir H. Layard a telegram stating that the Porte is desirous that delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier should continue, and that the part near Gorica Topal in dispute should be reserved for future decision, the fact being recorded in a Protocol by the Commission, which would then proceed with their work from Megured and Kalimid to Karaesubs, according to the XXVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

"Pray support this proposal, which seems fair."

No. 478.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 20, 1879, 11·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 86, you should answer that Her Majesty's Government will be very glad to welcome Prince Battenberg if he should extend his journey so far as London; but that the Queen is leaving for Scotland, and will be absent several weeks.

No. 479.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 346.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 20, 1879.*

IN reply to the inquiry made in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday No. 86 as to the answer which you should return to Prince Battenberg, who was expected to arrive at Vienna to-day, if he should question you as to his visiting London I have to state that you should reply that Her Majesty's Government will be very glad to welcome him if he should extend his journey so far as London, but that Her Majesty is about to leave for Scotland, and will be absent during several weeks from England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 480.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 705.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 20, 1879.*

ON the receipt of your Excellency's telegram No. 439 of yesterday's date, I instructed Captain Sale to give his support to the arrangement mentioned therein as having been proposed by the Porte with regard to the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier; and I informed your Excellency that I had done so in my telegram No. 79 of this day's date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 481.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 75. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, May 4, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71, Political, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, in compliance with a summons received from Prince Nicholas, I proceeded to Cettigné on the 28th, and on the following day I had the honour of being received by His Highness.

The Prince informed me that he had been anew subjected to humiliation by the Porte, and this time because he had followed the advice I had given him when I was last in Cettigné. His Highness said I had then assured him that for every friendly step made by him towards the Turkish Government the latter would make two to meet his advances, and now ten days had passed and the Sultan had made no sign of answering a telegram which in every word acknowledged the superiority of his rank and power.

I pointed out to the Prince that the advice I had tendered was not given in general terms, but that I had said if His Highness would send a Representative to Constantinople merely to make known his desire to commence diplomatic relations, the Porte would then at once appoint a permanent Representative at the Montenegrin Court. His Highness had preferred adopting two quite different courses, and I begged most respectfully to decline being held responsible for the failure which had attended them.

I, however, expressed the belief that perhaps, when it was clearly understood at Constantinople that His Highness' last telegram was intended to be an opening for other friendly measures, a reply would reach him from the Sultan.

It was, therefore, an agreeable satisfaction to me when Prince Nicholas sent for me yesterday morning, and read to me, with undisguised pleasure, a most courteous telegram which had been received late the night before from the Sultan. He shook me by the hand, and said he felt it was entirely due to British influence that he had been extricated from a very false position; and that, now that the tension which had existed between Turkey and Montenegro had ceased, he would prove how ready he was to prevent it ever being renewed. A Ministerial Council had already been held about the selection of the person to be sent to Constantinople with letters to the Sultan, and about providing the ways and means for the Mission; and, His Highness said, when I returned to Cettigné fifteen days hence, to be present at the christening of his new-born son, he hoped to be able to announce to me the completion of his arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 482.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 76. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, May 4, 1879.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS informed me yesterday that one of the reasons for which he had called me to Cettigné was that he wished to let me know, in a confidential manner, that he had ascertained that Hussein Pasha, the Governor-General of Scutari, was endeavouring to raise difficulties in the way of the work of the Delimitation Commission in the district on the western shores of Lake Scutari.

His Highness said Hussein Pasha still retained his influence over Mussulmans in the Kraïna by continuing the distribution to them of the rations which they had received whilst they were fugitives away from their homes, and that a body of 400 men had been enrolled secretly to make a demonstration against the Commission when it should arrive in the Kraïna.

I told the Prince that I could not attach very much importance to the above reports, as I happened to know the Chiefs of the Kraïna personally through having been instrumental in obtaining the return to their district of the majority of the inhabitants, and, therefore, was aware that they were only anxious for peace and quiet to repair the ravages of war on their villages and lands. However, if there was any foundation for the fears of His Highness, as the Kraïna was in his possession he would naturally

be held responsible for whatever might occur in the district, and that the best way of meeting the alleged intrigues of Hussein Pasha would be for steps to be taken to secure the proper police of the country.

Prince Nicholas has since told me that he has ordered two battalions to move into the Kraïna, and I have promised His Highness to say a few words of warning to Hussein Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 483.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my despatch of this day to Sir Henry Layard, with a copy of its inclosure, relative to the outrages perpetrated by brigands at Messrs. Hanson's chrome mines in district of Caraferia in Macedonia, and to the urgent need of organizing an efficient police for the suppression of the growing evil of brigandage in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 483.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency copy of a letter from Mr. Routh, the manager of Messrs. Charles Hanson and Co.'s chrome mines, in the district of Caraferia, complaining of the losses and outrages which his principals, and those connected with their mines, are suffering from the brigands in that direction.

To obviate the delay which would have necessarily resulted from a representation on the subject to the Commander-in-chief in Thessaly, I at once communicated the substance of Mr. Routh's letter to Abdullah Pasha, the General in command of the troops at Caraferia, and called upon him to afford all proper and efficient protection to Messrs. Hanson's interests; and I have since received a telegram from him informing me of his having detailed a detachment of troops for the above purpose.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to further report to your Excellency that the accounts which also reach me from other districts in the interior of Macedonia disclose a bad state of affairs, and go far to confirm Mr. Routh's statement that brigandage is assuming serious dimensions.

The military, although always on the move, and ready to afford protection, meet with little success in their pursuit of the lawless classes; and it is hopeless to expect that they can cope with the growing evil of brigandage without the assistance of a properly organized local police force, which, at present, does not exist in this province. The Governor-General, Rifaat Pasha, with a view to supply this deficiency, has reverted to the old plan of employing "Kir-Serdars" or temporary rural guards who have been chiefly recruited from Albanian irregulars.

These men are badly paid, have no uniforms, or reponsible officers, and, on the whole, are not to be depended upon. The country people loudly complain of their misconduct; and the military authorities also object to their employment, and have made more than one representation to the Governor-General against them, but his Excellency injudiciously persists in making use of them for police purposes.

The Porte would do well to order his Excellency to dispense with their services, which, I am assured, involve the provincial Treasury in a profitless outlay of 2,500*l.* per month; and it should not delay to extend to this province, which has been suffering from prolonged and trying emergencies, the new system of gendarmerie which, I hear, has been introduced with great success in the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 483.

Mr. Routh to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 3, 1879.

I, THE undersigned agent for Messrs. Chas. S. Hanson and Co., have the honour to state that brigandage is taking such large proportions round about the chrome mines in the district of Caraferia that not only has the transport of the ore to the seashore become a matter of impossibility, but the extraction of the same is likewise impracticable, by which immense interests are sacrificed.

Messrs. Chas. S. Hanson and Co. have gone into important contracts with an English firm at Glasgow, and unless these are carried out a very heavy loss will be the consequence.

Unfortunately, brigandage does not constitute a case of *force majeure*, so that unless a remedy is soon brought the contracts cannot be executed

Besides this there is another consideration. I have engaged a good many men, whose pay continues to run although everything is at a standstill.

One of our men, with letters from Bostany to Salonica, was killed on the road. Three others were stopped on their way from Bostany to Katerina; one of them, named Ibrahim, managed to escape, being mounted on a fleet horse; the others were carried away to the mountains, and only released after their pockets were emptied and on their giving a promise to carry a letter to our manager, M. Pashilian, in which they threaten him with death unless he sends them £T.100 on our account and £T.50 on account of Musli Boy, one of the chrome proprietors.

A few days ago the brigands, headed by the ferocious and bloodthirsty Nico, attacked our men near Palatina, killing two of them and carrying away to the mountains M. Athanase Pappagiorgio, who was attending to the extraction of the chrome we have bought from him, and for whom the brigands now ask a ransom of about £T.6,000.

The Keradjis refuse to transport chrome, as the brigands have clearly told them that unless we send them the amount they ask for they will not only prevent them from transporting, but they will likewise kill them if they dare show themselves on the road.

On the part of my principals, Messrs. Chas. S. Hanson and Co., I have most sincerely to thank Major-General Abdullah Pasha, the Commandant of Caraferia, who is ever ready to give us every assistance.

On all occasions when it was necessary he has sent soldiers to accompany our manager on his tour of inspection, and on one occasion I believe he received a sort of reprimand from the Minister of War for giving us this assistance without superior orders.

Unfortunately, however, we do not believe that the soldiers alone will be able to put down brigandage, and from what we have been able to judge in these last two years, we fully believe, and would respectfully beg to suggest, that a proper police corps be organized, with good detectives, who would have the faculty of calling in the assistance of the soldiers.

In this way we feel sure that this disastrous state of things will soon be brought to an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. ROUTH,
Agent for Chas. S. Hanson and Co.

No. 484.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch I addressed this day to Sir Henry Layard, relative to recent seditious occurrences in the Vilayet of Cossova, and to the prospect of a hostile attitude on the part of the Albanians against the surrender of the district of Güisigné to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May 7*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Ottoman authorities of Pristina having apprehended and imprisoned 200 Albanians who had taken an active part in the late incursions in Servia in the direction of Kourshoumli, more than 6,000 of the Albanians of Jacova, Ipek, and Malissia assembled about a week ago in the former town, and assumed a very hostile attitude against the authority of the Porte.

They sent delegates to Pristina to require the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners, threatening to attack and destroy the town and its inhabitants in case their demand were refused. A panic was the consequence; many members of the local administration and the leading inhabitants removed their families to Useup and other towns in that direction, and Nazif Pasha, the Governor-General of Cossova, fearing the responsibility of resisting the malcontents, had the weakness to surrender the prisoners.

The above particulars have been furnished to me by Rifaat Pasha, the Governor-General of Salonica, and are confirmed by the accounts which Salih Pasha, the General in command here, has heard from some Turkish officers who recently visited Pristina.

I also learn from other sources that these occurrences have considerably increased the agitation prevailing amongst the Albanians in consequence of the changes effected by the Congress of Berlin, and that Nazif Pasha's want of firmness will embolden the refractory Albanian tribes of Jacova, Ipek, Malissia, and Dibra to resist the cession of the district of Güisigné to Montenegro.

Salih Pasha, who is intimately acquainted with that part of Albania, is decidedly of opinion that the surrender of that district will give rise to great disorders and bloodshed.

In the meantime Halid Bey, the second Ottoman Commissioner for carrying out the decision of the Congress in regard to the cession of Güisigné, arrived here last week from Constantinople, and has gone to Monastir to meet Kiamil Pasha, the first Commissioner, with whom he will proceed to Pristina, the seat of the Governor-General of Cossova, where, I am told, these Commissioners have instructions to endeavour to effect a meeting with the Albanian Chiefs for the purpose of reconciling them to the new arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 485.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May 10*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard relative to the protracted occupation of the district of Djuma by the Russian troops, and of part of the district of Ruptchos by the Ottoman troops, contrary to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 485.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May 10*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the district of Djuma continues to be occupied by Russian troops, and part of the district of Ruptchos by Turkish troops, contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, according to which the former district is included in Macedonia and the latter in Eastern Roumelia.

Salih Pasha, the Commander of the Turkish troops in Macedonia, acting under instructions from the Porte, has offered to the Russian military authorities to withdraw the Turkish force from Ruptchos conditionally upon the Russian troops withdrawing from Djuma; but, as the latter have demurred to this arrangement, on the pretext that the advent of the Turkish administration will give rise to disorders and bloodshed, he has suggested to the Porte the desirableness of its arranging the matter with the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

Salih Pasha tells me that he has sufficient troops at Serres, Vlah, and Raslog to maintain order at Djuma, and that he does not apprehend that his occupation of that district will generate any disturbances.

Already, he says, many of the Bulgarian peasants of Krazna and other villages in that direction, who had fled to Bulgaria during the late insurrection, are quietly returning to their homes and occupations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 486.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May 10*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the movements of the Bulgarian bands of insurgents who recently crossed over from Kustendil and Djuma, and to the attitude of the Christian inhabitants toward them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 486.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May 10*, 1879.

DISQUIETING and contradictory accounts having been circulated in connection with the movements of the Bulgarian insurgent bands who recently crossed over from Kustendil and Djuma, I requested Colonel Synge to proceed to the scene of the disturbances to make inquiries, and I have now the honour to inclose herewith copy of my instruction to him as well as a copy of his Report upon the result of his inquiries.

He states that, the bands having met with no encouragement from the Christian inhabitants, retreated to the mountains in the district of Monastir, from whence I also learn that they have been dispersed by the troops of Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha in the direction of the district of Florina.

Colonel Synge also reports that great discontent has been caused amongst the population of Gheuvgheli by the recent exactions of the Commandant of the police of this province.

The Governor-General, with whom I have communicated on the subject, seems unwilling to assume the responsibility of making an inquiry into the alleged misconduct of this police officer on the ground that no evidence will be forthcoming against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 486.

Consul-General Blunt to Colonel Synge.

Salonica, April 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to request you to proceed up the line as far as Gheuvgheli or Demirkapou for the purpose of making inquiries respecting the composition, movements, and designs of a band of insurgents, variously estimated at from 300 to 500 men, who have recently made an irruption in that direction. You will endeavour to learn if the inroads of these insurgents are connected with any local movement against the Ottoman Government, and if they derive any encouragement or support from the native Christian inhabitants; what measures the local authorities are taking against them, and whether it is true that the Bulgarian and Turkish villagers in that part of the country have formed a league for their mutual security, and that a corps of Bulgaro-Turkish Bashi-Bazouks has been organized and is actually co-operating with the military employed against those insurgents.

I should also wish to be informed by you if any and what steps have been adopted by the authorities to prevent excesses or irregularities by these irregulars.

I inclose letters of introduction for you to the station-masters at Gheuvgheli and Demirkapou, who, I feel sure, will facilitate the object of your visit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 486.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, May 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, agreeably to your instructions, I have visited the districts of Gheuvgheli and Demirkapou, on the Salonica and Mitrovitza line of railway, and have collected the following information concerning the recent irruption of insurgents there:—

On the night of the 21st April a band of insurgents, variously stated at from 200 to 400 men, crossed the River Vardar, part by a ferry-boat at Gradetz and part by the railway bridge in its vicinity. They are reported to have come from Djuma, passing through the district of Malesh, and viâ Radovisch to the Vardar, after crossing which they divided.

The bands are composed chiefly of Bulgarians, but contain Vlachs and Greeks of Macedonia, and Albanian Christians.

They are under the Chiefs Stefo, a Bulgarian of Besfina, near Castoria, Giorgi Karaistaki, an Albanian of Gorytza, Giorgi Karacosta, and Kapitan Paulo, also from that district.

They were armed with Martini rifles, revolvers, and large swords carried Albanian fashion, were well furnished with ammunition carried on pack animals, and the Chiefs were mounted.

They appeared also to be furnished with money, as in many cases they paid for what they consumed, and one saw-mill proprietor, to whom they sent 8 Turkish liras and a demand for provisions, demurring to supply them, had his saw-mill and all his store of planks burned.

Five days later another band was reported in the neighbourhood of Krivolak.

The insurgents were not joined by any of the population, nor did they apparently develop any scheme or object, or seek to enrol members in their bands, and they received no local support whatever.

On the 22nd April they went to the village of Klissura, where they had a slight skirmish with some of the Mussulman peasantry of the district, who had been formed into corps of Bashi-Bazouks to defend themselves. A few were wounded on either side, and the insurgents moved across the hills in a westerly direction.

On the 26th April three of the insurgents who had apparently lost their companions were shot by the Bashi-Bazouks who were following them up.

The Bulgarian villagers of the district, the tendencies of the majority of whom are rather Greek than Bulgar, also furnished a contingent to the Bashi-Bazouks, and arms were sent up by the railway to be given out to the population for its defence.

Regarding the league reported, as far as I could learn, there was an assembly of the notables at Gheuvgheli, and it was agreed that in case the insurgents were successful the Christian inhabitants would protect the Mussulmans, and in return the Mussulman inhabitants would exert their influence to maintain order amongst the Bashi-Bazouks.

This last was done most completely; no irregularities occurred; and Riza Bey, the officer in command of the forces there, maintained the most complete order.

Owing to the disagreements between the Greek and Bulgarian Churches, there is an inclination to secession to the Romish Church by a small body of the latter, about thirty families.

A large new church building at Gheuvgheli has been left unfinished for the last three years, owing to the dread by a portion of the community that on its completion the Bulgarian portion would claim one church for themselves.

Great discontent has been caused amongst the population by the recent exactions of the Commandant of the police of the province, who lately visited the district of Gheuvgheli for the alleged purpose of chasing brigands. Under the pretext of connivance with these by the inhabitants, he extorted sums from them amounting, according to their statements, to 1,600 Turkish liras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 487.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Salonica, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL SYNGE informs me that after completing his inquiries at Gheuvgheli and Demirkapou, an account of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 13, Political, of the 10th instant, he prolonged his journey to Useup, where he heard nothing in reference to the late seditious occurrences in the Vilayet of Cossova.

He states that everything was quiet at Useup, and that Ali Draga, one of the Chiefs of the Albanian League, has been charged by the Governor of Pristina to prepare the inhabitants of Mitrovitza and Novi-Bazar for the advance of the Austrian troops, and to pacify them.

I should also report to your Lordship that Yahya Pasha, the Ottoman member of the International Commission for the delimitation of the Servian frontier in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, arrived here last week with his staff from Constantinople, and has proceeded to Nisch, viâ Useup.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 488.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 15. Political.)

Trebizond, May 9, 1879.

My Lord,

IT is reported to me from Erzeroum that within the last month an important emigration of Christian workmen has taken place; they proceeded to Russia to find employment, which has become quite scarce in that town since the importation of timber from the Soghanli has been prohibited by the Russian Government.

Also that several Mussulman families had already arrived from Kars and Olti, and that the whole of the Mussulmans in those regions are making preparations for departure, and that they may be expected shortly at Erzeroum.

This wholesale immigration is looked forward to with a certain amount of anxiety in the latter town, which is far from being abundantly supplied with provisions.

Drought, and the presumable consequent failure of the crops, have already caused a great increase in the price of cereals.

Yussuf Pasha, ex-Governor-General of Trebizond, and Serkis Effendi Ayabekian,

the latter of whom arrived this week from Constantinople, departed this morning for Erzeroum, to enter upon their duties as Commissioners for the reforms to be introduced in Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 489.

Captain Sale, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

Scutari, Albania, May 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report having sent on the 8th instant, through the Consul-General at Scutari, to his Excellency the Ambassador at Constantinople, with a copy to your Lordship, a telegram of which the following is the substance, viz.:—

"Riza Pasha, Ottoman Commissioner for delimitation of Montenegro, has declared, at meeting of Commission held to-day, that he withdraws, pending further instructions, from the work of delimitation, in consequence of a decision adverse to a claim made by him.

"This claim was to the effect that the Island of Gorica Topal (Scutari Lake) is wrongly placed in the Austrian Staff map, and that the island marked in the said map as Gorica Plac is really the Gorica Topal of the Berlin Treaty.

"As a consequence the Turkish Commissioner claimed that the frontier-line should pass close by the island marked as Gorica Plac in the Austrian map.

"The Commission made an examination on the spot, and decided against this claim, which is clearly at variance with the intention of the Berlin Treaty.

"Please expedite sending instructions to Ottoman Commissioner, if possible, as the work of the Commission may be brought to a standstill by his withdrawal."

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
British Commissioner.

No. 490.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 186.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship two copies (taken from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this morning) of the two Proclamations which were addressed last month by the Emperor of Russia, the first to the Bulgarians of the Principality of Bulgaria, and the second to the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, announcing the commencement of the evacuation of those provinces, in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

Your Lordship will no doubt have already received copies of these Proclamations from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 490.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May $\frac{4}{16}$, 1879.

Proclamations de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

I.

Aux Bulgares de la Principauté.

Bulgares de la Principauté!

EN exécution de la disposition du Traité de Berlin, j'ai donné ordre à mes troupes qui occupaient votre pays d'en commencer l'évacuation à l'expiration du terme fixé par le Traité pour cette occupation.

En vous en informant, je ne puis m'empêcher de vous exprimer à cette occasion ma reconnaissance pour l'accueil cordial que vous avez fait à mes troupes à leur entrée sur votre territoire, ainsi que pour la sympathie et l'attachement réellement fraternel dont vous avez constamment fait preuve à leur égard pendant la durée de leur séjour dans votre pays. Ayant combattu vous-mêmes dans les rangs de ma brave armée et ayant supporté avec elle toutes les charges de la guerre, vous vous êtes habitués à la respecter et à l'aimer, et vous avez partagé avec elle la gloire des héroïques exploits qu'elle a accomplis.

J'ai pu me convaincre avec plaisir, par vos fréquentes déclarations, de vos sentiments de dévouement et de reconnaissance pour moi et pour tout le peuple Russe à la suite du secours désintéressé qui vous a été prêté dans vos lourdes épreuves et des sacrifices accomplis en faveur de votre délivrance. Je crois à la sincérité de ces sentiments et je suis persuadé que témoins des grands événements qui ont posé les bases de votre existence indépendante, vous conserverez à jamais ces sentiments dans vos cœurs et les transmettrez à vos descendants.

Quand mes troupes ont fait leur entrée sur votre territoire, je vous ai annoncé mon intention de défendre votre nationalité et de vous assurer les droits nécessaires à toute société bien organisée.

Le Seigneur a béni les armes tirées pour la défense de votre juste cause et Il m'a permis d'accomplir ce que je désirais.

Les Puissances, par un sentiment de justice, n'ont pas pu ne pas reconnaître les droits civils de la nationalité Bulgare. Le Traité de Berlin vous a définitivement reconnu ces droits et a garanti votre indépendance, en posant par la création de la Principauté de Bulgarie des bases solides pour le développement ultérieur de votre nationalité.

Bulgares de la Principauté, une nouvelle voie s'ouvre devant vous, et les Puissances qui ont participé à l'œuvre de votre renaissance auront les yeux sur votre marche dans cette direction; vous leur montrerez que vous êtes un peuple apte à la vie politique indépendante et suffisamment mûr pour jouir des droits qui lui sont octroyés.

Par l'élaboration d'un Statut Organique pour l'administration de la Principauté, vous avez posé les bases de votre organisation intérieure et vous vous êtes réservé une participation importante dans les affaires de cette Administration. Je ne doute pas que vous ne sachiez vous approprier les principes qui servent de base au Statut et que vous n'en fassiez un usage utile à votre développement.

Vous vous choisirez un Prince qui sera votre guide et le défenseur de vos intérêts vis-à-vis des Puissances. Unis étroitement à votre élu, vous ferez vos premiers pas sur la voie qui vous est indiquée par les Puissances et vous vous dirigerez avec assurance vers le but qui vous est assigné par la Providence.

En adressant mes vœux au futur premier Prince de Bulgarie, je salue dans sa personne la renaissance du peuple Bulgare.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

Le 11 *Avril*, 1879.

II.

Aux Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale.

Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale !

Ayant la ferme résolution d'observer les stipulations du Traité de Berlin et reconnaissant que c'est seulement par l'observation de ces stipulations que peuvent être garantis, sans de nouveaux sacrifices et de nouvelles secousses, les droits qui vous ont été acquis par les armes Russes, j'ai donné l'ordre à mes troupes de commencer l'évacuation de votre territoire à l'expiration du terme fixé par le Traité pour son occupation.

Je vous remercie pour le réel attachement fraternel dont vous avez constamment fait preuve à l'égard de mes troupes pendant leur séjour au milieu de vous et pour les sentiments de dévouement et de reconnaissance que vous m'avez exprimés à plus d'une reprise et, en ma personne, à tout le peuple Russe pour les sacrifices qu'il a faits en faveur de votre renaissance. Je suis persuadé que vous transmettrez les mêmes sentiments à vos enfants et qu'ils les transmettront à leur tour à votre postérité éloignée.

Vous vous trouvez à la veille de l'introduction chez vous d'une nouvelle organisation civile, qui doit être établie en vertu des conditions du Traité et aux termes du Statut élaboré par la Commission Internationale. J'espère que vous répondrez à cette occasion à ce que j'attends de vous, et que vous ne fournirez pas de prétexte à l'accusation que vous troubleriez la paix et la tranquillité, si nécessaires, non-seulement pour votre propre félicité, mais aussi pour le bonheur de vos frères, les Bulgares de la Principauté.

Vous rappelant votre passé et le comparant à la nouvelle situation qui vous sera faite, vous devez considérer avec confiance votre avenir. Dès à présent, vos droits civils seront garantis. Votre vie, votre honneur, et vos biens se trouveront sous la protection des lois que vous appliquerez vous-mêmes. Vous recevrez de larges droits d'autonomie et la possibilité d'user des ressources du pays comme vous l'entendrez. Enfin, vous aurez toujours à la tête de votre Administration un de vos frères en religion, —un Chrétien.

C'est ainsi que vous sont garantis des droits, dont vous n'aviez pas joui jusqu'à présent. Il dépendra de vous d'en user pour votre bien, pour le développement pacifique et régulier de votre vie civile. Votre avenir, Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale, est maintenant dans vos mains.

Je sais que beaucoup d'entre vous sont mécontents de la situation créée à votre pays par le Traité et qu'ils désirent, au moyen d'un bouleversement violent, atteindre un but qui n'est pas conforme aux décisions des Puissances.

Je ne puis approuver cette intention, dont l'accomplissement, sans la volonté et sans le consentement des Puissances, est impossible et pourrait attirer de nouveaux malheurs sur votre pays. Cherchez à résister à des aspirations illégales de ce genre, qui peuvent saper dans sa base même l'œuvre aujourd'hui commencée de la renaissance de votre nationalité et préparez-vous, en restant tranquilles et sans aucune crainte pour votre avenir, à recevoir les droits à une nouvelle vie qui vous sont octroyés.

Que le Seigneur vous accorde son concours dans la voie de votre développement.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

Le 16 *Avril*, 1879.

No. 491.

M. Waddington to the Count de Montebello.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by the Count de Montebello, May 21.)

Paris, le 10 *Mai*, 1879.

M. le Comte,

NOUS connaissons aujourd'hui l'opinion des Puissances sur la proposition que nous avons faite en vertu de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin. Toutes l'ont acceptée ; elles admettent avec nous que le moment est venu d'offrir la médiation à la Grèce et à la Turquie pour faciliter une entente sur la question de la rectification des frontières Helléniques, et il ne reste plus qu'à déterminer d'une manière précise les conditions dans lesquelles cette médiation doit s'exercer.

Nous avons exprimé l'avis que les deux Gouvernements intéressés fussent invités simultanément à nommer des Plénipotentiaires et à reprendre à Constantinople

les négociations qui ont échoué à Preveza. A nos yeux, l'Europe n'avait point à se substituer aux négociateurs eux-mêmes, mais simplement à s'interposer entre eux pour aplanir leurs dissentiments et contribuer à les rapprocher ; et nous ajoutions que ce rôle pourrait être confié aux Représentants des Puissances près la Porte Ottomane réunis en Conférence.

Afin de rendre aussi complet que possible l'accord préalable des Cabinets, même sur les questions de forme, je crois devoir entrer ici dans quelques explications complémentaires.

Lorsque nous avons proposé de procéder par voie du Conférence nous l'avons fait dans la pensée que cette combinaison indiquée par les précédents historiques répondrait le mieux aux vues d'intérêt général dont s'est inspiré le Congrès de Berlin. Pour conduire à bonne fin une négociation de ce genre, l'unité d'action est en effet nécessaire.

Il est conforme à la nature des choses que les Plénipotentiaires de la Turquie et de la Grèce dans une question qui divise à ce point les deux Etats cherchent à tirer parti des divergences de vues que pourrait révéler l'attitude des Puissances agissant individuellement, et ils seront sans nul doute porté à voir dans les plus simples nuances de langage qui flatteraient leur sentiment, des encouragements à la résistance.

Il nous semble essentiel que les conseils qui leur seront donnés soient le résultat d'une délibération, et représentent l'opinion commune des médiateurs. C'est là, suivant nous, après l'échec des pourparlers de Preveza une condition de succès pour l'œuvre de conciliation entreprise par les Cabinets. L'acte international dont il s'agit de faciliter la conclusion trouverait dans une négociation conduite ainsi par l'Europe et en son nom, des garanties particulières de stabilité et de durée.

Il importe donc non-seulement que l'accord soit complet entre les médiateurs, mais qu'il soit certain aux yeux des Plénipotentiaires de la Turquie et de la Grèce, et que l'on ne puisse surprendre dans l'attitude ou le langage des Chefs de Mission à Constantinople aucune trace de dissentiment. J'ajouterai qu'en proposant de les réunir en Conférence nous n'avons point eu le dessein de donner de la solennité à leurs délibérations ; mais uniquement de leur fournir les moyens de manifester plus ostensiblement la communauté de leurs vues. La tenue de Protocoles exposant les opinions de chacun nous paraîtrait à cet égard inutile ou même dangereuse. Les résolutions prises à l'unanimité devraient seules être connues des parties intéressées. Les Agents Diplomatiques des Six Puissances pourraient donc se borner à se réunir chez l'un d'entre eux et convenir dans la forme la plus simple des conseils qu'ils auraient à faire entendre.

La plus grande latitude devrait en outre leur être laissée en ce qui concerne la forme des communications qu'ils jugeraient utile d'adresser aux négociateurs désignés par la Turquie et la Grèce, pourvu qu'il fut bien entendu que ces communications seraient faites de commun accord. En un mot, de quelque façon que l'on convienne de procéder, le résultat de l'intervention des Cabinets nous paraît dépendre avant tout de l'unité des vues, et nous regardons comme une des conditions essentielles de la médiation que, dans leurs rapports avec les Plénipotentiaires de la Grèce et de la Turquie, les Représentants des Puissances agissent collectivement au nom des Gouvernements investis par le Congrès de Berlin de la mission d'affermir la paix de l'Orient en réglant la question des frontières de la Grèce.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien présenter ces considérations à son Excellence Lord Salisbury. Si, comme je l'espère, il y donne son assentiment, nous proposerons que les Cabinets invitent la Porte ainsi que la Grèce à désigner immédiatement des Plénipotentiaires, et mettent les Agents Diplomatiques à Constantinople en mesure de remplir la mission qui leur est confiée en leur adressant les instructions nécessaires.

Il serait désirable, à notre avis, que les négociations puissent commencer dans la première quinzaine du mois prochain.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 492.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

Scutari, May 20, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

CAPTAIN SALE has requested me to telegraph following:—

"Your telegram of 16th received. Ottoman Commissioner having withdrawn of the Berlin Treaty, I would suggest that the Porte be moved to send instructions to its Commissioner to continue work with the Commission. Please see 4th Protocol inclosed in my despatch of the 13th, which should reach your Lordship shortly.

demand in consequence of a decision clearly in accordance with both meaning and text

(Signed) "SALE."

No. 493.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 187.)

Pera, May 20, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Walpole, dated to-day:—

"Kisiakoff left this afternoon for good. Meeting attended by district [?] society, Bülgarian Archbishop Extraordinary [?] President, is being held to protest against the appointment of foreign officers to Roumelian [?] force [?]. General Stolipine left also; destination unknown. Osman Bey was released and sent to Adrianople this morning."

No. 494.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 91.)

Paris, May 21, 1879, 4·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

M. WADDINGTON begs me to say that he is extremely anxious that Her Majesty's Government should act promptly on identic communication he has just made to the Six Powers on Greek question.

He says that delay will cause annoyance in France, and give rise to more attacks in the press against himself.

No. 495.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

Sofia, May 21, 1879

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE ALEXANDER goes firstly to Vienna and to Berlin, and thence to London, and then Rome, whence by Brindisi to Constantinople, whence he goes to Varna, &c. A telegram was received from him to-day between Odessa and Vienna.

Russian officials here all preparing for speedy departure.

No. 496.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 140.)

Therapia, May 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

THE following from Michell, dated yesterday:—

"A meeting is at this moment being held in the Bulgarian School of the members of the 'Eagle' Society, under Bulgarian Archbishop, to protest against the appointment of Vitalis or any foreign commandant of militia. Bulgarian peasants and townpeople are being brought to school in gangs to sign protest. Bulgarian officers declare intention to resign if appointment be maintained.

No. 497.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 21, 1879, 2·30 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 19th instant, and approve your proceedings.

No. 498.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 707.)

Foreign Office, May 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received from Major Trotter a copy of his despatch to Mr. Malet of the 24th ultimo. In that despatch Major Trotter inquires whether, in his capacity as Her Majesty's Consul, he has any right to interfere on behalf of oppressed Christian subjects of the Porte, and if so, under what authority.

By Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin the Porte engages "to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds."

It further undertakes "to make known the steps taken for this purpose to the Powers, who will superintend their application."

Further, in Article I of the Convention between Great Britain and Turkey of the 4th June, 1878, the Sultan "promises to England to introduce necessary reforms, to be agreed upon later between the two Powers, into the government, and for the protection of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte" in his Asiatic territories.

Under these two Treaty stipulations the Sultan stands bound not only to promulgate new and improved laws, but actually to carry out reforms in the administration of the provinces situated within the sphere of Major Trotter's observation. Any proceedings inconsistent with the spirit of that promise furnish an ample ground for remonstrance—by the Consul in the first instance, and afterwards, should occasion arise, by the Ambassador.

Judgment must of course be used, both as to the expediency and the manner of such representations, and great care should be taken not to act upon information the accuracy of which is open to doubt. But, subject to these precautions, Great Britain is bound to spare no diplomatic exertion to obtain good government for the populations of Asiatic Turkey.

Your Excellency is requested to furnish Major Trotter with a copy of this despatch, for his information and guidance.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 499.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 31.)

Foreign Office, May 21, 1879.

Sir,

YOU will have learnt from my telegram of to-day that I approve your proceedings with regard to the delimitation of the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia, as reported in your telegram of the 19th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 500.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 348.) *Foreign Office, May 21, 1879.*

Sir,

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency to Baron Calice, as reported in your despatch No. 295 of the 13th instant, as to the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the period within which the Russian evacuation should be completed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 501.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 113. Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, May 4, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the French Minister at this Court has communicated unofficially to the Greek Government the French Circular of the 21st April on the subject of the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier.

I understand that the King has expressed himself dissatisfied with the proposal to open direct negotiations at Constantinople. His Majesty considers that all attempts at a direct understanding with Turkey have been exhausted at the late Conferences in Epirus. His Majesty also affirms that he would never consent willingly to any curtailment of the territory which it was proposed to cede to Greece by the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty also objects to the choice of Constantinople as the place for the negotiations, on account of local influences, and he would have preferred Paris or Berlin. At Constantinople His Majesty considers that two, at least, of the Ambassadors are opposed to the concession to Greece of all the territory granted by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have no doubt that these opinions of His Majesty, which I now report, express the feelings of the Government, and also of the country, on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 502.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 208.) *Constantinople, May 12, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 181 of the 27th April, I have the honour to inclose the translation of the letter in Russian which Colonel Vitalis was asked to sign by General Stolipine.

Colonel Vitalis has arrived here in great anxiety as to his position, believing that an effort is being made to obtain his supercession, and the appointment in his stead of Colonel Kissiakoff.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 502.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Vitalis.

(Translation.) *Philippopolis, March 26 (o. s.), 1879.*

To his Excellency A. D. Stolipine.

WISHING to serve in the militia of Eastern Roumelia, I beg to request your Excellency to appoint me to the same.

No. 503.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 211.) *Constantinople, May 14, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE night before last I was informed that General Stolipine had arrived at Constantinople, and desired to see me. He is staying, like myself, at Missiri's hotel. I had already learnt that an appointment had been made for yesterday for him to meet Aleko Pasha at Prince Labanoff's. Yesterday morning the General asked to see me, and I at once went to his room.

I have already telegraphed to your Lordship the substance of his conversation, and I have the honour to inclose the copy of the paraphrase of my telegram, which, at his request, I gave to his Excellency.

He informed me that he really thought the Statute was preferable to the Bulgarian Constitution. In voting this latter Act the Assembly have thrown over the Conservative checks proposed by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, and have given the Principality institutions of a widely popular character. General Stolipine declares that the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia themselves feel this as a defect, the state of education among the Bulgarians not being sufficiently advanced for so extended a system. He says that he encountered the greatest possible difficulty, while effecting the recent changes, in finding Bulgarians qualified to fill the places of the Russian Administrators.

His Excellency cited as an instance of the growing tranquillity of public feeling, the ease with which he has been able to hand over to M. Schmidt the chest of Slivno. The inclosed extract of a private letter from that gentlemen does not, however, quite bear out the Governor-General's view of this incident.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 503.

Paraphrase of Telegram No. 178 handed to General Stolipine.

Constantinople, May 13, 1879.

GENERAL STOLIPINE informs me he has used every effort to induce the Roumeliotes to submit to the provisions of the Statute and Treaty.

He showed them that, compared with the Constitution of Bulgaria, the Statute was cheaper and better; and that, as an older man, Aleko Pasha was more qualified to inaugurate the new governmental system than the Prince of Battenberg, who was young and inexperienced. He assured the Bulgarians that Russia would not assist them in case of a revolt, and that as the Turkish troops were not coming, such an act would be unnecessary.

The people, he says, are quite ready to conform to the new order of affairs, and prefer the Statute to the Constitution of Bulgaria.

He suggests that the Bulgarians and Greeks of the province should send a deputation to congratulate Aleko, and to escort him to the capital.

The militia, his Excellency thinks, should not be at once reduced to the numbers fixed by the Statute.

This should be effected by degrees and only when order was assured.

Colonel Vitalis he does not think qualified to command both militia and gendarmerie.

He has not tact as an organizer, and he is ignorant of the language, a knowledge of which is essential.

It would be better if Aleko Pasha were named Commander-in-chief of the two bodies.

Colonel Vitalis might command the gendarmerie, while the militia might be commanded by Colonel Kissiakoff. The Emperor being determined to maintain the new state of things, the latter officer, who, as a Bulgarian, possesses great influence, would exert himself to carry out the wishes of the Czar.

I have read the above summary of his remarks to General Stolipine, and promised at once to telegraph to your Lordship.

Inclosure 2 in No. 503.

Mr. Schmidt to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Philippopolis, May 11, 1879.

(Extract.)

HIER le Gouverneur de Slivno m'a apporté—pas la Caisse, mais la partie de la Caisse qui était en roubles papier 40,000 (£ T. 4,000).

Le solde 70,000 roubles en argent (£ T. 11,000) est resté à Slivno, parce qu'on ne pouvait pas l'enlever secrètement comme le papier.

Il aurait fallu pour ce transport une ou deux voitures; la population se serait aperçu du transport de la Caisse, et les autorités n'osent pas le faire. Stolipine me dit qu'il ne veut pas inutilement exciter la population maintenant que tout est dans une bonne voie. Mais je crois que la nouvelle grande parade que Skobeleff passera le 14 Mai à Slivno pour les Bachi-Bozouks Bulgares contribuera plus que toute autre chose à exciter la population.

Bref, Stolipine m'a proposé de transférer l'argent se trouvant à Slivno à l'Intendance, qui me paierait ici la contre-valeur.

No. 504.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 212.)

Constantinople, May 16, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY, on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 25, I requested an interview with M. Nekludoff, the Chief of General Stolipine's Chancery, who, with the General, is stopping at the same hotel as myself.

M. Nekludoff was good enough to come to my room, but, not recollecting the details of the affair of Osman Bey, wished to refer to some papers he had with him.

In about an hour, M. Nekludoff called on me again with the paper, copy of which is inclosed, and was followed shortly after by General Stolipine himself.

His Excellency was most anxious that the text of the inclosed document should reach your Lordship as soon as possible. As it was rather too lengthy for the telegraph, and as I wished to accompany it with some remarks of my own, I telegraphed to your Lordship, expressing a hope that the question in Parliament might be postponed till the arrival of this despatch. I also telegraphed to Mr. Walpole at Philippopoli to ascertain the exact position of Osman Bey, and to transmit to your Lordship the result of his inquiries.

In the inclosed paper, General Stolipine, doubtless in consequence of his absence from the seat of Government, has been led into some error. His Excellency states that the sentence of Osman Bey had been commuted into a simple imprisonment of three months, including the term he had already undergone previous to the judgment, after which he was to be banished from Eastern Roumelia.

He also states that the term of the sentence has already expired.

The sentence was, however, for three months in addition to the previous confinement. Osman Bey was first taken into custody at the end of December or the beginning of January, and your Lordship will have learnt from Mr. Walpole's Report that Osman Bey has not yet been released, but is still in prison.

His Excellency states that no capital punishment has taken place by sentence of the Military Tribunal at Philippopoli during the six or seven months of his administration. It may thus be inferred, as I have reason to believe has been the case, that such sentences have been carried out in other portions of the province. During the same period, his Excellency declares that more than 200 capital sentences, passed in the districts of Slivno and Bourgas alone, have during the same period been remitted, and the criminals, at his intercession, have been sent to Constantinople.

If 200 sentences of this nature have been passed in six months in one district of the province, the fact, while it testifies to the severity of the Russian Military Tribunals, does not speak highly in favour of the system of police established by the army of occupation.

The crime of which Osman Bey was accused was that as a public petition-writer he had inserted in a petition, without instructions from the petitioners, that Russian soldiers had destroyed the woodwork of a mosque. The prisoner was urged to reveal on whose instigation he had inserted this statement. He maintained his declaration

that he believed he was reproducing the prayer of the petitioners, and that no outside influence had led him to make a false assertion.

For this he, a lame man, who maintained a family of six merely by his skill in drawing up petitions, was sentenced to exile in Siberia. His sentence was read to him at a parade. He was told by the Russian authorities to make his will, as he would never return.

If the sentence had been carried out he would not have reached Siberia, if at all, under a year, and it was improbable in his state of health that he could have borne up against the hardships of the journey. As it is, he has passed between four and five months in prison, and is to be exiled from the town where his practice is carried on.

But for the energetic intervention of Her Majesty's Government and of Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, I fully believe that the sentence would have been carried out. I am borne out in this view by the circumstance that when Mr. Malet mentioned the case to the Russian Ambassador at this capital, his Excellency replied, although at the time charged with the political supervision of the Government of Eastern Roumelia, that he feared nothing could be done in the poor man's favour.

It remains to be shown by what right the case was brought before the Russian Military Tribunal, and how far, even if this jurisdiction were legal, it was competent for those Tribunals to transport a Turkish subject from a province, declared by Treaty to be Turkish, to a Russian penal settlement. The jurisdiction of the Tribunal had been published previous to the Treaty of San Stefano.

I again venture to call your Lordship's attention to the contrast between this sentence and the punishment inflicted on those who, by their attitude towards M. Schmidt, violated not only the provisions of the Treaty, but the orders of the Russian authorities.

Her Majesty's Goverment have never admitted the laws of war which Russia wished to establish at the Conference of Brussels. I trust that pretensions such as those put forward in this case on behalf of the Russian Military Tribunals may be distinctly refused the sanction of international law.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 504.

General Stolipine to M. Nekludoff.

Le 15 *Mai*, 1879.

Mon cher Nekludoff,

A PROPOS de l'affaire d'Osman Bey, veuillez dire à Sir H. Drummond Wolff que je n'ai jamais considéré Osman comme un criminel sérieux; aussi, avant l'intercession de Sir Henry pour lui, j'avais déjà demandé sa grâce, comme celle de beaucoup d'autres détenus Turcs—jugés par les Tribunaux Militaires—et j'étais sûr qu'ils seraient ou bien graciés ou bien que leur peine serait modifiée; car les lois martiales ne répondaient plus par leur sévérité au temps de paix où nous nous trouvons.

C'est ainsi que plus de 200 criminels accusés de meurtres, etc., et beaucoup plus sérieux qu'Osman, qui devaient subir la peine capitale, ont été par mon intercession renvoyés de Slivno et Bourgas à Constantinople.

Pour en revenir à Osman, l'Arrêt qui a été prononcé par le Tribunal de Philippopoli, étant commué en simple prison pour trois mois, en comptant dans ce terme le temps qu'il y passa avant le jugement de l'affaire, il en est déjà depuis quelque temps quitte de sa peine, et doit être seulement banni de la Roumélie Orientale.

Libre à Aleko Pacha de le faire revenir, après l'évacuation des troupes Russes, et son entrée en fonctions. J'ajouterai que malgré plusieurs peines capitales qui ont été prononcées à Philippopoli par le Tribunal Militaire, il n'y a pas eu une seule exécution, ni par ordre du Général Todleben, ni par le mien.

(Signé) ARCADI STOLIPINE.

P.S.—Je vous autorise de donner copie de la présente à Sir D. Wolff s'il le désire.

A. S.

No. 505.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 213.) *Constantinople, May 16, 1879.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 195 of the 30th April, I informed your Lordship that the Greek Patriarch had promised me a memorandum on the subject of our conversation.

I have the honour to forward to your Lordship this document, on which I will venture to offer some remarks by the next opportunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 505.

Memorandum by the Greek Patriarch.

EN général les Chrétiens de l'Empire Ottoman, à cause de leurs grandes souffrances qu'ils ont subies de la part de la race dominante pendant des siècles, souffrances de différente nature, à cause de leur tendance naturelle à la liberté, à cause de leurs souvenirs historiques, à cause de leurs antipathies religieuses et bien d'autres pareils, n'espérant aucune amélioration de leur sort et position sous le Gouvernement de la race dominante, ont toujours les yeux tournés vers celle-là des Puissances Européennes, qui montre réellement qu'elle se soucie d'eux et soutient leurs efforts pour la réalisation de leurs désirs. Ils comptent toujours et ils compteront sur la Puissance dont ils attendent leur délivrance de leurs malheurs.

Les Chrétiens de la Turquie pour des raisons politiques et religieuses voient toujours avec méfiance les Européens, et à cette méfiance donne pas mal de nourriture la tendance imprudente à convertir des différentes sociétés prosélytiques et d'autres combinaisons fâches de choses qui ne se prêtent à aucune combinaison. Toutes ces choses, comme aussi la parfaite connaissance de la situation de l'Orient, sont les principales causes des victoires que la politique Panslaviste a remportées en Turquie; et pour cette raison elle réussira toujours dans ses poursuites; ce qu'on peut prouver d'ailleurs et par l'histoire d'environ un siècle.

Cette politique, qui travaille depuis déjà un siècle d'après un programme de politique très-ingénieuse, n'est pas loin de l'exécution complète de son but politique qu'elle poursuit immédiatement après la guerre d'Orient, que l'Europe très-mal avait regardée comme un triomphe de la politique d'Occident, le Slavisme avait tracé la marche de la question Bulgare, qu'il a achevée à moitié après un travail de vingt ans, pendant lesquels l'Occident dormait et blâmait même les Grecs qui s'étaient vu forcés en protégeant leurs intérêts sacrés à démasquer cette question et la présenter sous son aspect réel. Le Slavisme, ayant pour guide la même politique, poursuivra très-prudemment l'achèvement du Traité de San Stéfano, après quoi il voudra peut-être pousser plus loin petit à petit et sans bruit. Pour le moment il travaillera à agiter la Thrace et la Macédoine, où il reste encore quelques débris du Bulgarisme et l'étendard de cette croisade sera porté par l'Exarque des Bulgares et ses Evêques, sous le masque de la religion et de la liberté de conscience, la Porte et l'Europe y consentant peut-être par ignorance ou même par une crainte injustifiable pour que les troubles et les conflits soient prévenus.

Il serait à désirer que la division de la Bulgarie en Principauté et Roumélie Orientale soit conservée pendant plusieurs années; mais cela sera prouvé prochainement sinon impossible du moins très-difficile. Ce serait dans l'intérêt bien etendu de tout le monde, qu'une barrière bien solide fût mise entre les limites de la Thrace et de la Macédoine d'un côté, et celles de la Roumélie Orientale de l'autre, pour conjurer les calamités qui pourraient surgir. Trois choses contribueront à rendre cette barrière insurmontable: (1) une politique ferme et unanime de l'Europe envers le Slavisme; (2) la concession aux deux susdites provinces du même régime qui a été accordé à la Roumélie Orientale avec les mêmes garanties concernant son exécution; et (3) la limitation de la juridiction spirituelle de l'Exarque dans les limites de la Principauté Bulgare.

Quant à ce qui regarde le premier, comme question politique, contraire peut-être

aux principes et intérêts de chaque Puissance Européenne en particulier, nous nous abstenons de dire quelque chose.

Quant au second, nous dirons formellement que le vrai intérêt du Gouvernement Turc, du reste de ses peuples et de l'Europe, exige que le même régime qu'a été accordé à la Roumélie Orientale, soit aussi accordé aux autres provinces de l'Empire Ottoman; cela pourrait conjurer le danger, prévenir les intrigues Panslavistes, sauver l'Empire Ottoman, et rendre heureux les peuples; autrement, tant que les peuples voisins vivent sous de bons régimes, tandis que ceux qui sont sous le Gouvernement Turc vivent sous un régime qui ne donne aucune garantie de sûreté et de progrès, il y aura toujours des troubles qui, après dix ans ou tout au plus vingt ans, engendront des calamités destructives. Les Bulgares et les Grecs qui resteront en dehors de la Principauté Bulgare et de la Roumélie Orientale, voyant leurs compatriotes vivre heureusement dans ces provinces, eux-mêmes au contraire exposés à toutes sortes d'injustices et d'oppressions, et sous un régime loin d'être paternel, et en même temps séduits par les organes Panslavistes, ne pourront d'aucune manière rester tranquilles. Mais ici surgit une autre question: si, c'est-à-dire, l'Europe parviendra à faire établir aussi dans ces provinces limitrophes de la Roumélie Orientale un semblable régime, et si le Gouvernement Turc ayant accepté, voudra sincèrement l'exécuter totalement. L'histoire du passé du Gouvernement Turc, comme aussi le véritable esprit et les autres qualités des Turcs, qui sont en grande partie complétement inconnus à l'Europe, prouvent le contraire, et que, si ce n'est pas impossible, au moins c'est très-difficile de se fier à l'exécution de la part de la Turquie seule de cette mesure qui la sauverait. Sans cette réforme administrative assurée par des garanties, le Slavisme tôt ou tard sans faute occupera les quatre cinquièmes de la Turquie d'Europe qui se trouvent actuellement sous la domination Turque. Le Slavisme travaille comme un homme en parfaite connaissance de ce qu'il poursuit et avec beaucoup d'adresse et de courage; su parfois il est aussi secondé de l'hésitation de l'Europe qui, pourrait-on dire, ignore l'Orient et ses peuples.

Quant au troisième, la politique Panslaviste a su accomplir par la question religieux Bulgare ce que l'Europe vainement cherche aujourd'hui à arrêter. Personne en Europe n'a pu comprendre, lorsqu'il fallait, le but de cette question; tous, au contraire, donnaient raison aux Bulgares et approuvaient leurs procédés révolutionnaires contre leur autorité ecclésiastique, le Patriarcat de Constantinople. Même le Gouvernement Turc voyait avec plaisir cette division des deux races, cherchant à en profiter et à affaiblir la juridiction spirituelle du Patriarche de Constantinople. Les Puissances Européennes étaient indifférentes ou donnaient tort aux Grecs; aussi les différentes propagandes religieuses cherchaient à profiter de cette agitation; il n'y a que la Russie seule qui à dessein s'occupait à attiser le feu pour ses projets. Il paraît malheureusement que le passé n'a pas pu ouvrir les yeux de ceux qui désirent voir l'Orient délivré du Slavisme. Comme à présent la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale ont été assurées, l'Exarque et la politique, qui le soutient dans ses démarches sous le masque de la liberté de conscience, cherchent à envoyer en Macédoine et aux provinces mixtes de la Thrace des Evêques Bulgares, lui résidant à la Roumélie Orientale ou à Constantinople. Si ce projet, qui est poursuivi de l'Exarque et de la politique Slave, finit par réussir, nous verrons alors après dix ans l'exécution complète du projet conformément au Traité de San Stéfano, et même plus, peut-être, et c'est bien probable que les Grecs alors dans leur désespoir, se verront forcés par cette réussite de la politique Russe, de faire cause commune avec eux pour rendre leur destruction un peu moins écrasante.

D'après les canons de l'Eglise Orthodoxe Orientale, chaque Evêque fonctionne dans la circonférence de sa juridiction librement quant à l'administration ecclésiastique; mais il ne peut pas s'immiscer dans la juridiction de son voisin. Le Patriarche de Constantinople, par exemple, ne peut pas intervenir dans la juridiction des autres Patriarches: d'Alexandrie, d'Antioche, de Jérusalem, de l'Archevêque de Chypre, du Synode de la Russie ou de la Grèce, comme à l'inverse ceux-là aussi; mais ils sont seulement liés religieusement, et ils se réunissent et délibèrent en cas de besoin sur des questions d'un intérêt commun.

La Bulgarie doit avoir sa propre Eglise demi-indépendente, comme aussi son autorité politique, et elle doit avoir le même régime ecclesiastique que la Roumanie et la Serbie avaient avant le dernier changement de ces Etats. La Roumélie doit avoir une autorité ecclésiastique subordonnée spirituellement, mais non pas administrativement, comme elle a aussi son autorité politique; quant aux diocèses en Thrace et en Macédoine et les autres possessions Ottomanes dans la Turquie d'Europe, ils doivent rester sous la juridiction directe du Patriarche de Constantinople, comme jusqu'à

présent, qui tâchera de satisfaire les demandes secondaires et justes des différentes races Chrétiennes dans ces provinces.

La situation avant la guerre qui a créé l'Exarquat et son Firman est complétement passée, et d'après le nouvel état après le Traité de Berlin, ni l'Exarquat ni le Firman qui l'a établi ne peuvent exister raisonnablement. Cette autorité de l'Exarque des Bulgares qui s'étend partout de l'Empire où il y a des Bulgares, et qui lui a été accordée par le Gouvernement Turc, contrairement aux coutûmes religieuses et les canons de l'Eglise Orthodoxe Orientale, doit être abolie.

L'Exarque, s'il veut être le Chef des Bulgares, doit se retirer dans la Bulgarie, n'ayant aucune juridiction ecclésiastique en dehors de ses limites, suivant en cela l'exemple du Métropolite de Serbie, qui n'a aucune juridiction ecclésiastique en dehors des limites de la Principauté Serbe. Personne ne peut nier que les habitants des provinces de Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Ancienne Serbie ne sont pas de véritables Serbes, et cependant le Métropolite de Serbie jamais ne s'est immiscé dans les affaires ecclésiastiques de ces provinces-là, quoiqu'il y en aie des mécontents de l'Eglise de Constantinople. Cela peut très-bien se faire par une ferme décision de la Sublime Porte et de l'Europe. Ceux qui veulent résoudre cette question en prenant comme base le Traité de Berlin, qui établit la liberté de conscience, sont dans l'erreur, parce que dans cette question il ne s'agit pas de la liberté de conscience, mais de l'Eglise Nationale. L'expression "liberté de conscience" signifie que les partisans de chaque dogme qui en jouissent peuvent exercer librement dans le pays où ils se trouvent leurs devoirs religieux.

Les Catholiques, les Protestants, les Turcs, les Juifs, doivent être parfaitement libres d'exercer leur culte en Bulgarie et en Roumélie. Nous croyons donc d'après ce que nous venons de dire que si le régime, qui a été fait pour la Roumélie Orientale, est appliqué avec des garanties aux autres provinces aussi, et que la juridiction de l'Exarque est restreinte dans les limites de la Bulgarie, l'Empire Ottoman et les Grecs seront sauvés du Panslavisme; autrement, celui-là expirera, et les Grecs, pour sauver les débris de leur patrie et d'eux-mêmes, seront forcés de chercher ailleurs des combinaisons et des allianees.

No. 506.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 81. Political.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Her Majesty's Ambassador, during an interview with which I was favoured, strongly insisted on the necessity of limiting the Bulgarian ecclesiastical jurisdiction, now vested, according to the new Organic Law, in a holy Synod, of which the Exarch is President, to the Bulgarian territory, exclusively of all other.

In the expediency of such limitation I have the honour entirely to concur. The principal measures by which it can be effected will have to be taken at the Porte itself, and will consequently be beyond my competency; but I trust, subject to your Lordship's instructions and approval, to be able to bring His Highness the future Prince of Bulgaria into his Excellency the Ambassador's views on this subject, so far at least as results are concerned.

On some other points of less urgent or minor importance, I am happy to report that my ideas met with his Excellency's approval. Such were the option to be allowed the Mahommedan Bulgarian population in regard of militia service; the British Vice-Consular arrangements regarding Varna and Rustchuk; also the expediency of a subordinate Consular officer as Vice-Consul, Chancellor, or the like, at Sofia.

I ought to add that, in the matter of the Synodical or Exarchial jurisdiction, Her Majesty's Principal Commissioner for East Roumelia, with whom I had also the favour of an interview, did not seem to consider the limitation above mentioned as of paramount necessity. But on this point I venture respectfully to disagree from him, and to adhere to the opinion of his Excellency the Ambassador, as before stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 507.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 26 of the 1st instant, transmitting two copies of the Map of Khotour.

In accordance with the instructions therein contained, I have the honour to return herewith one of the copies with the boundary marked upon it by a dotted red line, in *facsimile* of that shown on the map deposited in the archives of the Embassy, and prepared by Sir Arnold Kemball and his Russian colleague.

I have, &c
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 508.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 8th instant I forwarded to the Foreign Office the following telegram:—

"A project of frontier will be drawn up here on a large-scale map. This project, when approved, will have to be carried out on the ground. In this demarcation on the ground, owing to the inadequacy of the map, differences of opinion will arise as to the trace; for instance, in the neighbourhood of a village, how to avoid separating it from its lands, the determination of the principal watershed, &c. The map being on a large scale, great deviations need not be anticipated; but to decide small changes, it seemed desirable, in order to avoid continual references from distant parts of Asia, to have the power of deciding by a majority of votes. The Turks took the same view. The Russian Commissioner opposed, and said that every trifling difference must be referred to the Governments. Hence my suggestion to bring pressure upon him through Count Schouvaloff."

The above telegram was dispatched in explanation of my telegram of the 7th instant to your Lordship, which had reached London in an unintelligible state.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 509.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Bourgas, May 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Commission of which I am a member arrived here yesterday, the 13th instant, and we may expect to recommence work of delimitation on the 17th instant, the point of departure on the Black Sea of the frontier being about thirty miles distant.

The squadron of Russian regular cavalry forming the escort has been at Bourgas since the 5th instant.

It is believed that large scale maps ($\frac{1}{42000}$) of the country through which the frontier-line will pass are in possession of the Russian Delegate, and will be available for the use of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 510.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 308.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 19, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship will have received from the Porte a complaint similar to that which has been made to the Austro-Hungarian Government of a decision come to by the Montenegrin Frontier Commission upon the line to be traced from the Island of Gorica Topal, in the Lake of Scutari.

Count Andrassy has replied that, having called for information, he is satisfied that the island from which the majority of the Commission decided to draw the line was what was designated in the Treaty as Gorica Topal, though it may have been incorrectly so named. The Commission had therefore acted correctly on the spirit of the Treaty, even if this had not been correctly conveyed by its words; and his Excellency was still further of opinion that it would be most unwise for the Porte to resist the decision come to by a great majority of the Commission, the recognition of the principle that the vote of the majority was to be decisive being clearly to the benefit of the Sultan's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 511.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 21 Mai, 1879.*

LES Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin nous ayant notifié leur assentiment à l'élection du Prince de Battenberg comme Prince de Bulgarie, la Sublime Porte est prête à confirmer cette élection, et à remettre à Son Altesse son Firman d'Investiture, aussitôt que le Prince arrivera à Constantinople, ainsi qu'on nous l'a annoncé. Je vous prie d'en informer le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 512.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 442.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 21, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY yesterday informed Minister for Foreign Affairs that his Government consented to the withdrawal of the Secret Article, and asked for an audience of the Sultan to inform His Majesty that this had been done in deference to His Majesty's personal desire, and to make a communication from the Emperor. Sultan has replied that he will see him on Sunday next.

No. 513.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 443.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 21, 1879.*

COLONEL WILSON'S exequatur was submitted to the Sultan for Iradé. His Majesty objects to title of Consul-General for Anatolia, because term is too vague. It is proposed that it should be stated that Her Majesty's Government has appointed Colonel Wilson as Her Majesty's Consul-General to reside at Sirons, with jurisdiction over the vilayets which it is intended to include in it; if you agree to this, which appears to me reasonable, the exequatur will be promulgated [?] at once. Colonel Wilson asks that exequatur should be given to all the Vice-Consuls under him in Anatolia in general. This cannot be done. Porte will give exequatur to each Vice-Consul for a particular district, and he can then obtain at any time a travelling

Firman, giving him authority in any other vilayet. Colonel Wilson has asked me for an exequatur for Captain Cooper for Angora, which will of course supersede that of Mr. Gatheral, which I think unfortunate.

No. 514.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 21, 1879.*

AT to-day's meeting departure was decided on.

Commissioners would not agree as to day, being offended with Aleko for not returning their cards. I go either Friday before him, or Satuday with him. Most will go Monday; Tzeretelow on Friday.

I made proposal according to despatch No. 227, which I read. French, German, Austrian, and Russian declared they had no instructions, and the discussion is adjourned to Philippopolis.

Tzeretelow contended that the Commission had financial administration till first Assembly was convoked. The other Commissioners were against him, and he will ask for instructions.

No. 515.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 22, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 443, I have no objection to proposed form of exequatur if all vilayets in Asia Minor, exclusive of Kurdistan, are included.

Vice-Consul's exequaturs should be for districts which Colonel Wilson, with your approbation, may select.

Gatheral should not be disturbed at Angora, but should be instructed to report to Wilson. Cooper can be appointed to some other district.

No. 516.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 22, 1879.*

PRINCE BATTENBERG, who arrived here on Tuesday, leaves to-morrow, proposing, after going to London and Paris, to go on by Rome to Constantinople, so as to reach Varna on the 27th June.

I told him that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to welcome him, but had been anxious for him to assume his government as early as possible, so as to prevent an irregular continuance of the provisional régime.

He said it had been settled that he should visit the different capitals, and that it would not be possible for him to do so in less time. He was much disappointed on learning that the Queen would be in Scotland when he reaches London.

No. 517.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 22, 1879.*

GERMAN Ambassador tells me that Prince Battenberg is anxious that the members of Consular Commission *ad hoc* should have left Bulgaria, and have been replaced by permanent Agents, before he arrives there.

He said that Count Andrassy proposed to appoint as Agent a man of diplomatic

rather than of Consular experience, and that it was desirable that all the Powers should have Agents qualified to be useful advisers of Prince.

I said that I was under the impression that Her Majesty's Government intended their Delegate *ad hoc* to remain afterwards as Consul-General or Agent.

No. 518.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 22, 1879, 4·50 P.M.*

PRINCE BATTENBERG told Count Andrassy confidentially that he had not wished to go to Livadia, and that when first invited he had declined.

The invitation was, however, repeated in such pressing terms, that he was obliged to accept it, and this made it necessary for him to go to the other Courts.

Count Andrassy does not attach much importance to the consequent prolongation of the provisional régime, and thinks the objections to it fully counterbalanced by the Prince not arriving in Bulgaria till Russian evacuation is practically completed.

No. 519.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies (and Sir H. Drummond Wolff).*

My Lord,
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1879.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Michell, C.B., Her Majesty's Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia, to be Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner on the European Commission for the organization of the Province of Eastern Roumelia, in the place of the Earl of Donoughmore.

I request that your Excellency will have the goodness to notify the nomination of Mr. Michell in the above capacity to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 520.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 78, Political, of the 7th instant, stating the steps which you had taken in order to signify to the Ottoman and Russian Commissaries that the selection of Prince Alexander of Battenberg by the National Assembly of Bulgaria had met with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, under the provisions of Article III of the Treaty of Berlin, which prescribes that "Le Prince de Bulgarie sera librement élu par la population et confirmé par la Sublime Porte, avec l'assentiment des Puissances."

In reply, I have to state to you that the intelligence of Prince Alexander's election contained in your telegram of the 29th April was duly received by Her Majesty's Government on the same day; and that the instruction given to Her Majesty's Ambassadors in my telegram of the 1st instant, and which was repeated to you, was intended for your information only, and not for any action on your part; but it would appear that, in consequence of some obscurity in the wording of this telegram, it was not clearly expressed that the instruction was drawn up to meet the requirements of the IIIrd Article of the aforesaid Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Except the last paragraph.

No. 521.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 390. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 9, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 55 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to state that I availed myself of an opportunity to inform the Sultan to-day that Her Majesty's Government, as I had already led His Majesty to expect, were already committed to the offer of mediation in the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier. It was consequently now too late for them to renew the proposal they had made to His Majesty on the 7th April, which, had it been complied with, would have secured to Turkey the important towns of Janina and Larissa, and would have avoided the necessity of the mediation of the Powers. I was, however, authorized to tell him, quite confidentially, that I would do all I could to assist him in obtaining the terms Her Majesty's Government had indicated.

His Majesty expressed his regret that mediation, which he believed would lead to a fresh Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople, was necessary, as he apprehended serious inconveniences from it; but he begged me at the same time to convey to Her Majesty's Government his gratitude for the communication which I had been directed to make to him. His Majesty added that he was not yet able to point out to me on the map the line of frontier which he was ready, as a last concession, to give, but that he hoped to do so on Tuesday next, if I would come to the Palace on that day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 522.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 391.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report upon the present condition of the refugees in Mount Rhodope from M. Lanzoni, a gentleman sent up by the Compassionate Fund to distribute relief amongst them, which will be read by your Lordship with interest. It is satisfactory to find that the condition of these unfortunate people has improved since the district was visited by the International Commission. Under the circumstances mentioned by M. Lanzoni, I have directed that the distribution of food and clothing amongst the refugees shall for the present be suspended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 522.

M. Lanzoni to the Committee of the Compassionate Fund.

Messieurs, *Constantinople, le 7 Mai, 1879.*

JE profite de quelques jours de congé que vous avez bien voulu m'accorder pour vous soumettre un Rapport des secours que j'ai distribué par vos ordres aux réfugiés du Mont Rhodope.

Les réfugiés en ce district peuvent être évalués à environ 57,000. De ce nombre j'ai constaté environ 46,000 privés de ressources et répartis comme suit :—

Gbjoumuldgina	30,000
Xanthi	3,000
Déri-déré	3,000
Sultan-yeri	4,000
Kirdjally, Assar Alti	6,000
Total	46,000

Parmi eux j'ai distribué personnellement, et avec l'aide des Sous-Comités, la quantité de couvertures, vêtements, et autres que j'ai reçu de Constantinople, savoir :—

7,000 yorgans, 4,129 lucas, 300 entaris, 825 feredjes, 1,012 costumes, 571 chemises, 507 caleçons, 1,876 shalwars, 363 blouses, 76 flanelles, 244 pièces pour enfants, 100 sacs, viz., 40 sacs haricots et 20 caisses biscuits.

Une petite partie des effets ci-dessus a été distribuée le jour de mon départ par les soins de M. Zographos et ceux du Comité aux réfugiés les plus nécessiteux des villages aux environs de Ghioumuldjina.

Bien que les réfugiés du Mont Rhodope aient eu à supporter assez de privations, j'ai constaté que leur état de misère n'était pas en rapport avec l'exposé que l'on avait fait à Constantinople, et pendant mon séjour les maladies et la mortalité parmi eux n'avaient rien de sérieux.

Un bon nombre d'entre eux, dès leur arrivée sur les lieux, s'est immédiatement occupé des travaux de la terre, ce qui leur a permis de gagner la vie.

Les secours consistant en couvertures et vêtements chauds que j'ai emporté avec moi et ceux arrivés après, sont arrivés à temps pour préserver les malheureux les plus nécessiteux contre la rigueur de l'hiver; il était temps, car ils furent accueillis avec reconnaissance.

La plus grand partie des réfugiés était digne de secours. Ils se comportaient toujours convenablement et étaient honnêtes et laborieux; pourtant un certain nombre d'entr'eux, à l'arrivée de la saison adoucie, accueillaient toujours nos secours, mais avec l'intention de vendre les objets, surtout les couvertures, ce qui me décida à vous en donner avis, pour engager à ne plus acheter cet article.

Les rations telles que maïs et autres que le Gouvernment leur distribuait, étaient aussi vendues.

J'ai le regret de constater l'inconduite des femmes, lesquelles avides d'argent que ni le Gouvernement ni nous leur procurait, se sont données à une vie désordonnée.

Les vicieux et paresseux parmi les hommes, qu'aucun système de police pouvait tenir en respect, interceptaient les voies de communication aux voyageurs pour les dévaliser. Ils exerçaient leurs actes de brigandage contre tout le monde sans distinction de race, mais de préférence dans les environs des localités habités par les populations Grecques et Bulgares.

Ghioumuldjina possède une garnison d'environ 3,500 hommes, mais les autorités ne paraissaient pas se préoccuper de la formation d'un service de police apte à mettre ordre à cet état de choses.

J'ai à me louer des Sous-Comités que j'ai été autorisé par vous de former; ils ont été pour moi d'un grand avantage surtout à Kirdjally, Sultan-Yeri, et Deri-doré, ou ils ont obtenu des habitants les moyens du transport gratuit pour les objets destinés aux dits villages, tandis qu'à Ghioumuldjina et à Xanthi les frais de transport étaient tous à notre charge.

Pour revenir à la question de la continuation de secours à donner actuellement ou l'hiver prochain dans les districts que j'ai été appelé à visiter, tout dépendrait naturellement des sommes d'argent que le "Compassionate Fund" pourrait allouer encore aux réfugiés du Mont Rhodope.

Mais en principe la position de ces individus est la suivante: les honnêtes et laborieux trouvent à travailler, et ceux parmi eux qui ont reçu de nous vêtements et couvertures, seront plus à l'abri du poid qu'ils ne l'étaient l'hiver passé. Par contre, les insoucieux, les paresseux, et les malhonnêtes souffriront l'hiver prochain autant que l'hiver passé par suite de privations, et bon nombre n'auront qu'eux-mêmes à blâmer; car ayant vendu les couvertures et autres, ils se trouveront privés des effets indispensables pour se préserver du froid.

Avant mon départ quelques habitants de Cavalla et Drama m'ont supplié de porter à votre connaissance le fait de la présence dans ces deux localités d'environ 10,000 réfugiés dénoués de ressources, avec l'espoir que vous voudrez bien étendre vos secours en vêtements et couvertures de ce côté-là aussi. Pourtant, vu la saison avancée, je crois que le moment n'est pas opportun pour répondre à leur demande.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) AUGUSTE LANZONI,

Agent Spécial du Comité pour les Distributions au Mont Rhodope.

No. 523.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 395. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 13, 1879.*

I HAVE in vain endeavoured to prevail upon the Sultan to accept the secret Article of the Convention recently concluded between Turkey and Austria-Hungary. I have had two long conversations with His Majesty on the subject, in which I placed before him all the arguments at my command to induce him to withdraw his opposition to it, and I informed him that by doing so he would give much satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government. Several communications also passed between us in the matter through the medium of the chief Interpreter, Munir Bey. Both the Grand Vizier and Caratheodory Pasha, who have been most anxious that His Majesty should not reject the Article, after having authorized its signature, and who are fully impressed with its importance as a step towards binding Austria-Hungary to come to the aid of Turkey should she be hereafter attacked in her European provinces by the Slav States, requested me not to refer in any way to them in my discussions with His Majesty, as they had exhausted every argument and all their influence in seeking to change his determination, and the question had become almost a personal one between him and his Ministers.

As your Lordship may not be acquainted with the text of the secret Article, and the negotiations that have taken place with regard to it, I may state that, as originally proposed by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, it was in the following terms:—

"Toute attaque contre l'une ou l'autre des garnisons mixtes dans le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar sera considérée comme dirigée contre l'état politique créé par le Traité de Berlin, et devra être repoussée en conséquence par les forces réunies des garnisons respectives Impériales et Royales et Impériales Ottomanes." The Sultan objected to this wording on the ground that it bound him to employ his troops against his own subjects, the Mussulmans of Novi-Bazar and of the neighbouring provinces, should they, for any reason, rise against the Austrians and attack them, an engagement into which he could not enter as a Mahommedan Sovereign and as Caliph. His Ministers so far agreed with him, and, on their refusal to accept the Article in its then form, Count Zichy consented to the following modification:—"Toute attaque contre le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar sera considérée comme dirigée contre l'état politique créé par le Traité de Berlin, et devra être repoussée en commun par les forces réunies des deux Empires."

The Sultan, however, was not satisfied with this amendment; but insisted that the words "venant de dehors" should be introduced after "Novi-Bazar." Count Zichy was at length induced to accept this addition, which was subsequently approved by his Government. The Convention was then signed by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, after a prolonged negotiation, during which the Sultan's Ministers had the greatest difficulty in removing His Majesty's scruples, and in inducing him to accept the secret Article, as modified by His Majesty himself, the Council of Ministers on one occasion sitting at the Palace, under the presidency of His Majesty, for no less than thirty-six consecutive hours. Since its signature, His Majesty has insisted upon its withdrawal, and, as he has made a personal appeal on the subject to the Austro-Hungarian Government, Count Andrassy has authorized Count Zichy to cancel it.

His Majesty, in the communications that I have had with him on the subject, has given me more than one reason for his resolution not to accept the Article. He still maintains that it implies an engagement on his part to employ his troops with those of Austria-Hungary in suppressing a rising of the Mussulman population in the district of Novi-Bazar, and even in the province of Novi-Bazar, which may be brought about by acts of cruelty and oppression on the part of the Austrian authorities. His Majesty is encouraged in this belief by statements which are sent to him by designing persons as to the persecution and outrages to which the Mahommedans are alleged to be subjected in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the confiscation of the property and the profanation of their mosques. His Majesty cannot be made understand that these statements are immensely exaggerated, if not altogether unfounded, and are probably invented at Constantinople, with the object of bringing about a misunderstanding between him and Austria. Another argument put forward by His Majesty is, that it is not an alliance with Austria against Servia and Montenegro that Turkey requires, but rather an alliance with those Principalities against Austria, who is represented to him as meditating an immediate advance upon Salonica and the annexation of Macedonia. His Majesty thinks that, with the assistance of the Servians and Montene-

grins, and of the Albanians, who he has been led to believe would rise to a man in arms against Austria, he would defeat the ambitious designs attributed to her, and that the three populations would have a common interest in doing so. He is, I believe, encouraged in this view by Osman Pasha and others in the Palace.

In my conversation with the Sultan to-day, in which he communicated to me his final decision to persist in the withdrawal of the secret Article, His Majesty did not repeat these arguments, but dwelt solely upon its limited character, as referring only to the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. His Majesty contended that it was entirely in favour of Austria-Hungary, as it bound him to help her in maintaining her hold upon a district of which he had been virtually deprived by her, whilst it in no way engaged her to assist him in defending any other portion of his dominions in European Turkey. If Austria, His Majesty said, would enter into an alliance with him for the defence of his European frontiers against the Russians and the Slavs, such as England had entered into with him with respect to his Asiatic dominions, he would be most willing and ready to accept such an alliance, which would be of real value to Turkey. Then the three Empires together might successfully resist any further aggression from Russia. But he did not see what interest he had in entering into a secret engagement with Austria, which could only give offence to Russia without being of any benefit to himself, as it only bound him to maintain the Austrian occupation of a part of his own territories. On these grounds he had resolved to insist upon the withdrawal of the secret Article.

I informed His Majesty that I had heard his decision with much regret, but that I would inform Her Majesty's Government, as he requested me to do, of the grounds of it.

The existence of the secret Article has been generally known for some days in Pera. I understand that Prince Labanoff was informed of it by some one in the Palace, where he has his agents. He has spoken on the subject to Carathéodory Pasha, and has given his Excellency to understand that he had taken his measures to frustrate this attempt on the part of Austria to enter into an alliance with Turkey, which, he insinuated, was an offence to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 524.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 398. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 13, 1879.*

HAIREDIN PASHA has informed me that the Sultan has told him that he had abandoned his intention with regard to the employment of Rustem Pasha in Constantinople, and that, consequently, he might now return to the Government of the Lebanon. I have pressed his Highness to send him back without delay, and he promised me to do so. As I have already stated to your Lordship, His Majesty seems at one time to have had the idea of removing Carathéodory Pasha from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of replacing him by Rustem Pasha. I am glad that he did not carry it out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 525.

Sir H. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 399. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 14, 1879.*

IN a despatch to your Lordship going home by this messenger, Mr. Palgrave mentions a conversation that he has had with me with reference to the Bulgarian Exarch. He expresses his concurrence in my opinion that it would be very desirable if the Porte could revoke the Firman creating the Bulgarian Exarch, leaving the new Bulgarian Principality to appoint its own Metropolitan, as was done by Servia and

Roumania when they separated from, and became tributary to, Turkey, whose jurisdiction should be confided to Bulgaria. I have before referred to this subject in despatches to your Lordship, and have pointed out the danger of giving to the Bulgarian Exarch, whose residence would either be at Tirnova, Sophia, or Philippopolis, ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the whole Bulgarian population of Turkey in Europe professing the Greek faith. Such a state of things would be a great step towards the political union of Eastern Roumelia, Macedonia, and Thrace to Bulgaria. It would be carrying out the scheme devised by General Ignatieff when he prevailed upon the Porte to sign the Firman establishing the Exarchate. It appears to me that the changes recently made in the political condition of the Turkish dominions in Europe would authorize the revocation of the Firman by the Porte.

Some of the Turkish Ministers, and many intelligent and far-seeing Greeks with whom I have spoken on this subject, are fully aware of the great importance of limiting the jurisdiction of the Exarch to Bulgaria. But Russia would probably do her utmost to prevent such an arrangement, and might succeed in preventing the Porte by menaces from attempting to carry it out.

I have had the advantage of conversing with M. de Kallay on this matter. He appears to think that, considering the opposition which may be expected from Russia, and the means that she could employ to excite the Bulgarians against any attempt to limit the jurisdiction of the Exarch, it would not be prudent for the Porte to attempt to do so. At the same time he fully recognizes the danger of allowing the Exarch to exercise ecclesiastical jurisdiction over all the Bulgarians in Turkey in Europe whilst residing either at Philippopolis or in Bulgaria. He suggests that this danger would be met if the Exarch were compelled to make Constantinople his residence and the seat of the Bulgarian Synod. The Porte could then exercise a certain control over him, and the Bulgarians would look to the capital of the Empire as the seat of the head of their Church, and not to a province which is almost independent of Turkey. This, M. de Kallay thinks, would prevent the mischief which would result from the Exarch exercising spiritual authority over a large Turkish population when practically living out of Turkey.

M. de Kallay's views are entitled to serious consideration. It is not impossible that if the arrangement he suggests could be carried out, the Bulgarians themselves might prefer having a distinct and independent Metropolitan to being under an Exarch residing at Constantinople, and might of themselves bring about the separation, which they might resist if an attempt were made to impose it upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 526.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 400. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 14, 1879.*

I HAVE had two interviews with Aleko Pasha. He did not, I am bound to say, make a very favourable impression upon me. He seems to be a weak man, or a very careless one.

He was ignorant, or pretended to be, of the most important questions connected with Eastern Roumelia. He declared that he had never heard of the "Eagle Society," of the Moscow Committee, of the intrigues of the Panslavist Agents, of the nomination of Bulgarians, known to be such agents, and entirely in the Russian interest, to places hitherto held by Russian officers, and of many other matters which have recently been under discussion, and expressed much surprise at what I said to him about them. As his Excellency has seen Prince Labanoff more than once, it may be reasonably suspected that this surprise was feigned. He did not disguise from me that he should hesitate to do anything which might give offence to the Russians. He thought his best policy was to meet their views as far as possible, and to wait before exercising his authority under the Constitution as regards appointments, &c., until they had completely evacuated the province.

After saying this he expressed a suspicion that the Porte was too much under the influence of Russia, and endeavoured to make me believe that he was opposed to that influence. On the other hand, Haireddin Pasha complained to me that Aleko Pasha had committed himself to Prince Labanoff on several points, such as the acceptance of

the civil functionaries named by the Russian authorities, without having first consulted the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or himself.

From what M. de Montholon tells me, Aleko Pasha does not appear to have made a better impression upon M. de Ring and himself than upon me. He seems to have held the same language to them as he did to me.

Judging from a few words that the Sultan said to me about Aleko Pasha, I gather that he suspects his loyalty. But then, unfortunately, His Majesty suspects everybody.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 527.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 401.)
Therapia, May 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the instructions which I have addressed to Major Trotter with regard to the Special Commission appointed by the Porte to inquire into the state of the Vilayet of Erzeroum and of the neighbouring districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 527.

Sir A. H. Layard to Major Trotter.

Therapia, May 12, 1879.

Sir,

A SPECIAL Commission appointed by the Porte, and consisting of Yussuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi, has started for Erzeroum, to inquire into the state of that vilayet and the neighbouring districts.

Her Majesty's Government take a special interest in the object of this Commission, as the future of a large part of Asia Minor is likely to be involved in the success of its labours. They have therefore decided that it shall be accompanied by an officer in Her Majesty's service. Having proposed your name to the Marquis of Salisbury, the choice has met with his Lordship's approval, and I have to instruct you to join the Commission as soon as possible.

Reasons which I need not enter into have rendered it inadvisable to ask that you should take part officially in the deliberations of the Commission, but you go with the consent and approbation of the Ottoman Government, and the Imperial Commissioners have received verbal instructions to communicate with you freely on the subject of their proceedings.

The instructions to the Commission give it ample power to redress the wrongs under which the populations are suffering. You will, by your independent position, be able to give much assistance in bringing these wrongs to light, and the sufferers will no doubt lay their grievances before you without fear. In this part of your labour I recommend to you caution in believing in statements made to you, and the strictest impartiality, in order to avoid the imputation of favouring Christians, to the detriment of Mussulmans, and the loss of influence which would be occasioned by it.

The duties of the Commission include the drawing up a general scheme of reforms for the districts which you will visit. If you have any influence over the preparation of this scheme you will use it to obtain equal justice for all classes and denominations of the Sultan's subjects, for an appropriate distribution of taxation, and for police organization, which shall render the country secure for travellers and inhabitants. You will bear in mind that Her Majesty's Government desire above all to consolidate the Empire under the dominion of the Sultan, knowing that the means to attain this end are the welfare and prosperity of his people.

You will report frequently by letter and telegraph with Her Majesty's Embassy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 528.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 403.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 15, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 382 of the 7th instant I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter from certain Mussulmans who have returned to Sophia, complaining that their property has been seized by Bulgarians, who now refuse to restore it, and, in some cases, are even proceeding to dispose of it by public auction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 528.

The Mussulmans of Sophia to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Sophia, le 7 Mai*, 1879.

LES calamités et les maux qu'a soufferts et que souffre la population Musulmane des deux localités titrées sous les noms de Bulgarie et de Roumélie Orientale, sont déjà trop connus par votre Excellence pour nous y insister. Les deux territoires centre de la guerre déclarée entre les Gouvernements Ottoman et Russe, ont été le théâtre des malheurs inouïs de tout temps et où des milliers d'infortunés victimes des atrocités commises sur eux ont rendu leur dernier soupir. Ce qui attire le plus l'attention du monde civilisé dans les annales de l'époque actuelle ce sont les souffrances et les maux sans analogue essuyés par les Musulmans de la Turquie d'Europe, qui ont été forcés, pour se sauver la vie, d'émigrer dans les mois de Novembre et Décembre 1877, en abandonnant leurs biens et propriétés; mais une partie d'entre eux a été soumise à mille espèces de mort causée soit par les intempéries de la saison, soit par des maladies, soit surtout par les actes de vengeance des Bulgares; et une autre partie, après avoir éprouvé des difficultés et des tribulations sans nombre, a été en état de se réfugier dans différentes localités de l'Empire Ottoman.

Les Musulmans qui ont pu s'affranchir ainsi des terribles conséquences de cette émigration, flattés de la douce espérance que la paix générale, suite du Traité de Berlin, leur faisait concevoir, et comptant sur la protection du monde civilisé, ont pris la résolution de retourner à leur patrie afin de rentrer dans leurs propriétés. Mais hélas! les actes arbitraires de leurs compatriotes Bulgares ont trompé leurs espérances, et la preuve la plus palpable en est que, nous Soussignés, de retour à Sophia depuis un certain temps, avons observé et observons, quoiqu'avec un serrement de cœur, qu'entre la ruine de presqu'en général toutes les maisons et de tous les lieux saints des Musulmans, l'autorité locale et les Bulgares se sont emparés de nos biens et propriétés.

En tout cas, tout en endurant cet état de choses ainsi qu'une foule d'autres mauvais traitements, nous avons réclamé la restitution de nos immeubles donnés à louage pour une année, et bien que nous soyons porteurs de tapou, on exige de quelques-uns de nous des certificats, et, malgré nos démarches réitérées en due forme depuis quatre ou cinq mois, la plupart de nous non-seulement n'a pas pu encore se rendre maître de ses propriétés; mais, malgré la présence dans cette ville des propriétaires de la plupart des immeubles, le Gouvernement Bulgare les a donnés dernièrement à louage pour deux [?], et, en outre, il démolit une foule de maisons (sauf celles occupées par les officiers Russes et certains Bulgares), de sorte qu'il paraîtrait qu'on poursuit le système d'anéantir toute trace de propriétés Musulmanes. Enfin, nous nous empressons de porter aussi à la connaissance de votre Excellence que pour comble de malheur et pour complément des vexations auxquelles nous avons été jusqu'ici sujets, le Gouvernement Bulgare a commencé à vendre ces derniers jours aux enchères publiques les maisons et les terrains appartenant aux Musulmans.

Comme cette dernière mesure arbitraire, qui est en même temps diamétriquement opposée aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, va nous ruiner complétement, nous venons implorer par la présente au nom de l'humanité, la bonne protection et la haute assistance soit de l'Europe, qui a garanti par le Traité de Berlin les propriétés et les droits de l'Islam en Bulgarie, soit surtout du Gouvernement que votre Excellence représente en Turquie.

Nous avons, &c.
(33 seals and signatures.)

No. 529.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 404.)
Therapia, May 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches I have received from Lieutenant Chermside respecting the affairs of Zeitoun and the proceedings of the Reform Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 529.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Mr. Malet.

Aleppo, April 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 24th April I sent you a telegram of which the following is a copy:—

"Prisoners here proved to have been only arrested, not tried; half left for Marash to-day, where they will be examined; rest follow. Commission asked Porte for leave to go there at once; answer not received."

Subsequently to the visit to the prison which I reported in my last despatch, it transpired that the prisoners here, whom the late Governor informed the Porte it was impossible to release, owing to their being condemned criminals, had never been tried. A Mussulman Tribunal was assembled, consisting of two members of the "Divan Temiz," or higher Court, the President, and two members of the Second Court, who declared their detention here illegal, and that they ought to have the accusations against them examined at Marash. The prisoners were sent from the prison here to the Armenian Catholicos' house, and a subscription was made among the Armenian community to furnish them with a few necessaries for their journey and hire a certain number of horses to carry the feeble. At Marash, whither they are to march by easy stages, they are to be lodged in a suitable house, where they will be in detention. I am informed by the Commissioners that the prisoners at Marash have also been removed from the prison into houses. On the 19th the Consul and myself were informed by the Commissioners that fifty-four prisoners at Marash had been released. Late the same night I received a communication to the effect that there was an error in the telegram, and that another had been received, which showed the number to be only thirteen. The Commissioners, on my representations, supported by those of the British and French Consuls, decided to proceed to Marash with as little delay as possible, leaving the convening of the local Assembly till their return; they, however, referred the matter to the Porte, and an answer not yet having been received, their departure has been delayed, and will probably not take place before the 2nd May, instead of the 25th or 26th April, as originally intended. As they hope to proceed at once to Marash themselves, they have decided to delay the reinstallation of the new Kaïmakam at Zeitoun, thinking that their presence will give more éclat and circumstance to the proceedings, and that if demonstrations of loyalty are made by the Zeitounli, it will be a better occasion for suggesting clemency for such as may be found guilty, and a manner of procedure less likely to excite the jealous susceptibilities of the Mussulmans. In view of their intended departure, this did not appear a matter of much importance either way, as the Zeitounli Babek and his band have sent letters to Husni Effendi, the Kaïmakam, tendering their submission, and have received instructions in reply to remain quietly in their homes.

The Commission propose to journey direct to Marash without delay, and subsequently to proceed to Zeitoun, where they will inquire into the causes of the past disturbances, the alleged injustice of the taxation, and the other grievances, and institute a provisional police system. They do not, however, intend to settle the matter on the spot, but to return to Aleppo if possible in the beginning of June. A special Commission will then settle the Zeitoun affairs. In consequence of the special form of administration at Zeitoun, its traditional laws and privileges, it is intended to settle this question separately, and not, as in other cases, in the General Assembly.

As regards merely examining matters at Zeitoun, judging on the spot, and collecting information for a definite arrangement to be subsequently arrived at, I

should be glad of your instructions as to whether I am to support or acquiesce in this idea, or to use my influence in favour of a definitive settlement on the spot.

There is another point on which I wish for instructions: the question of building a barrack at Zeitoun.

That the present moment would be an inopportune one I have little doubt, but the Christian Commissioner appears to think that the mere entertainment of such an idea, to be carried out at some future time, even had quiet and good government, and the means of prosperity and progress been established by their efforts, would be unjust and impolitic. Until I have visited Zeitoun, and considered the character and aspirations of the people, their probable action in any future troubles or disturbances in the neighbourhood or on the frontier, and the peculiar topography of the region, I am not prepared to form any but a very general opinion, even after my visit, I should not like to give one until I receive your instructions in the matter.

From all I hear of the country, the large number of Circassians in the neighbourhood is a great grievance of the Christian population, and the theory that Kiamil Pasha and the late Governor of Marash wished to surround Zeitoun with Circassians and to intimidate, if not exterminate the inhabitants, seems to be borne out by facts.

The large Circassian population in the neighbourhood of Marash is apparently little, if at all, under the control of the local Government; the question of the removal of this population from the districts of the Taurus, where there is a numerous Christian population, is a grave one, and one the execution of which might necessitate the employment of a large force, and be the cause of considerable bloodshed. It is possibly one of those questions that your Excellency thinks had better not be raised at present, but as I imagine that when at Marash it is one upon which I shall very likely be called to give an opinion, and on which the Commission may not be unanimous, and as to which I may have to ask your instructions by telegraph, I do not consider it premature to bring it before your notice here.

There is another question as to the desirable resolution of which I may have shortly to ask your instructions.

Kiamil Pasha, as your Excellency is aware, disarmed the Christian Zeitounli, while the Mussulman population of the neighbourhood, including, of course, the Circassians, remains armed. The usual results of such a disarmament have been, owing to the action of Babek and his band, as reported in Mr. Henderson's despatches, limited to the murders and outrages your Excellency is aware of. It does not appear expedient that the Mussulman population should remain armed and the Christian unarmed. The Commission will, I imagine, very likely be unwilling to raise this question, and the probable result will be that if the authorities shut their eyes to i the Christians will, in a few months, have supplied themselves again with a conside able number of arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 529.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Mr. Malet.

Aleppo, April 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the following account of the doings and proposals of the "Commission of Reforms" subsequent to those reported in my despatch of the 17th April:—

The heads of communities have been asked to furnish the numbers of their members in the various parts of the vilayet, with a view to enable the Commissioners to decide how many Deputies shall be elected from each community.

The reply has been that the Government records which register the Mussulmans as liable to military service and the Christians as taxed for exemption from the same, are the best records. This reply is given either from inability to furnish the desired information, or owing to the real numbers being in excess of those that are taxed.

The vilayet is divided into four sandjaks: Marash, Orfa, Zor, and Aleppo.

Communities, on the return of the Commission from Marash, are to furnish a list of twelve names, from which four will be selected by the Commission, if the communities are sufficiently numerous to require a representative for each district.

It is expected that there will be in all twelve or fourteen Christians, and a slight

Mussulman majority in the Assembly, which is to be kept within the numbers of twenty-four to thirty persons.

The Deputies will probably receive indemnity for travelling expenses.

This Assembly will form the Local Central Commission of Reforms, under the presidency of the Imperial Commissioners.

Committees will probably be formed for the consideration of particular questions from among its members.

Numerous documents, complaints, petitions, &c., are received by the Commission, but principally from the immediate neighbourhood, or presented by people who come to Aleppo on purpose. The people here seem gaining confidence and coming forward readily, but it is feared that the original idea of sending to every Kaïmakam and Mudir to forward the petitions, complaints, &c., of his district would not succeed, and that the people would fear to come forward, and even if they did, that many petitions would fail to be forwarded; it is, therefore, intended later, for districts remote from the principal towns, to send travelling Commissions into the country empowered to collect and bring grievances, &c., before the Commission.

The numerous documents received are being docketed under various headings, either for classification or to be examined by a similar number of Committees.

The heads are, the Commissioners tell me—

Etat de service des Juges et Magistrats.
Etat de service de tous les employés civiles.
Etat de service de tous les zaptiehs ou gendarmes.
Commission d'Enquête Judiciaire.
Commission d'Enquête Administrative.
Travaux Publics.
Mise en exécution de reformes.
Participation respective des communautés dans le Conseil.
Affaires de Municipalité.
Revue des impôts fiscaux.

Apart from the General Assembly or Commission it is intended to appoint two Special Commissions.

1. Pour la réorganisation de la gendarmerie.
2. Pour l'installation de nouveaux Tribunaux.

The Commissioners inform me that they have abundant evidence of the arbitrary and illegal nature of Kiamil Pasha's Administration, and of doubtful proceedings in the collection of the taxes, and that they believe in the existence of large deficits in the public Chests. A bribe of 500 liras was offered them not to examine the public Chests here.

Apart from the inherent difficulty of their work, and all the local complications and interests, the choice of instruments for carrying their resolutions into effect is the gravest consideration, and such is the traditional corruption of the Alleppines, notorious even in Turkey, that among all with whom I have conversed, without exception, there seems little hope or belief in the actual accomplishment of any reforms, unless the Executive be in the hands of foreigners.

The documents relating to all judicial and criminal sentences lately passed are being examined, and doubtful cases referred back to the Tribunals with remarks. The Commissioners inform me that the miserably-paid Judges are, almost without exception, corrupt.

The Kaimakam of Rum Kalek, accused of various malpractices, including raising taxes on his own account, has been suspended and sent for, and a Commission of Inquiry dispatched to the place.

It is intended to prepare a statement of the revenue of the vilayet, in the hopes of being able to make a local budget. The mortgages or bonds ("hevalas") on such taxes as the Indirect Contributions, the sheep-tax, &c., given by the Porte to M. Zarifi and others, at, I am told, 40 per cent. interest, seem one of the crushing causes of the anarchy and disorder of the local finances and administration, and part of a system that, if continued, must paralyze any efforts of local reform.

Want of money and credit are obstructions to the commencement of public works, and the want of confidence engendered by the dissipation and squandering of former contributions seem to have produced a general conviction that the only possible means of executing them is by the instrumentality of foreign companies.

The imposal of a tax on all beasts of burden and mounted travellers leaving and entering Alexandretta is under consideration, and the Consuls are being consulted in the matter. The proceeds of this tax it is proposed to devote to the draining of the marshes and the construction of a jetty, projects for which, approved by competent engineers, are said to exist. The control of this would be in the hands of a Board, consisting of a Turkish official, two of the Vice-Consuls, and a representative of the Municipality; a M. Tozelli is, I believe, to be the engineer.

As regards the prospective gendarmerie organization, the services of two able European officers would be of immense benefit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 530.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 405.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Bourgas respecting the nomination of Bulgarian officials by General Stolipine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 530.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, May 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 27th April orders were received here for the enrolment of Mussulmans, Greek Rayahs, Jews, and Armenians in the East Roumelian militia; the Russian Governor of Bourgas informed me, rather to my surprise, that this measure was the consequence of an order emanating directly from the Emperor of Russia.

On the same day the Greek Vice-Consul telegraphed to his colleague at Philippopolis, and received for answer that no such orders were given from that town. In consequence of this telegram the Greek Archbishop of Achialo telegraphed on the 28th April to General Stolipine on the subject, and received on the 3rd May an answer of which the following is a translation, and in which your Excellency will notice that the Russian Governor-General of Roumelia bases his action on the Treaty of Berlin, although he does not touch upon those stipulations relating to the same militia which the Russian authorities have hitherto persistently ignored:—

"*General Stolipine to the Archbishop of Achialo.*

"According to the Treaty of Berlin, the Roumelian militia is to be composed of all the nationalities of the country, and I have therefore given orders, both to Philippopolis and to Slimnia for the enrolment of Turks and of Greeks who are Roumelian subjects. I am surprised that the Greeks, who claim equal rights with the Bulgarians, should decline the honour of serving their common fatherland—Roumelia.

"(Signed) STOLIPINE."

On the 30th April a deputation of Mussulman villagers came to me in the name of all the Mussulman villages (about 120 in number) remaining in the district comprised between Pravedi, Karnabad, and Aidos, to inform me that recruits were demanded from them for the Bulgarian militia, and asking me for advice as to what they should do. They further told me that they had been ordered either to leave the country or to give soldiers, and that if they remained their women must abandon the veil ("yashmak") and dress like the Bulgarian female peasantry. The deputation declared that the whole of the Turkish Balkan of the districts above mentioned would abide by the advice I might give them, but that their greatest fear was lest the Mussulman levies might be compelled to live upon the troops of the Sultan, and by doing so "go straight to Djehenemeh (Hell)."

In answer, I suggested to them the miseries which would inevitably follow such a wholesale emigration, entailing, as it would do, the abandonment of their houses, the

fields sown, their flocks, &c. The alternative of their leaving their homes, of the enforcement on their women of a different costume, I treated as foolish inventions of Bulgarians anxious to induce them to leave their homes in order to buy their sheep at a tithe of their value, and who speculate on their emigration as a means of gratuitously appropriating Mussulman houses, corn-fields, and herds.

I endeavoured to tranquillize them as to the risk of their being obliged to fire upon Turkish troops by representing that, within a short time, the Roumelian militia would be no longer under Russian or Bulgarian command and would serve merely as the executive force of the province. Summing up the advice I had to give them, I most strongly advised them to submit to the conscription rather than incur the certitude of penury and the possibility of starvation, which would be the infallible consequences of their abandonment of house and land.

I am glad to say that I learned yesterday that my counsel had been acted upon, and (with the exception of one village, Boghaz-Déré, in the Caza of Aidos, the Mussulman villages are still inhabited by their legitimate owners.

The enrolment of the Greek Rayahs in the Caza of Bourgas has been carried out in a sufficiently orderly manner, 150 young men were expected to present themselves here for ballot from the town of Sizopoli, but upon the authorities sending agents there they found that all the male population remaining was composed of boys under fourteen and men over forty; those of intermediate ages had emigrated *en masse* to Vasilikos and Agathopoli, seaport towns in the Sandjak of Kirk-Kilisseh, and now under Turkish rule. The contingent from the Caza of Bourgas was, therefore, limited to seven Greeks, as from the single Mussulman village now comprised in this district no conscripts were found to be eligible.

On the contrary, in the District of Achialo-Missevria, the most shameful excesses appear to have been committed under the direct order, and in the presence of, Dimitri Dracaloff, Bulgarian Sub-Governor of that caza, who collected bands of armed Bulgarian peasants, and quartered them at rack and manger on the Greek towns and villages.

In consequence of complaints laid before him by the Greek community, the Russian Vice-Consul, M. Hartwig, proceeded on the 4th instant to Missevria (a small town, purely Greek) and, arriving unexpectedly, was able to see for himself the conduct of these armed savages (in number about 150) who had stayed in barrels of wine, broken open boxes and cupboards, slaughtered sheep and poultry, beaten with sticks men and women, and had begun to threaten the women, when his appearance put a temporary stop to further excesses. M. Hartwig immediately telegraphed to General Stolipine who returned an answer promising to send Russian troops to restrain the Bulgarians, but I am informed that on the following day Bracaloff doubled the number of the ruffians he had billeted on each house.

In reply to a question put by the Vice-Consul, the Bulgarians replied that they acted in this manner towards the Greeks because the Turks had treated them in a similar way.

At Achialo the relations of such young men as had fled to escape conscription were imprisoned, but were allowed to go free on the representation of M. Hartwig.

I have the honour to inclose translations of two Reports forwarded by the Greek villages of Bana and Eminch (in the District of Achiavolo), in which Bracaloff and his band acted in the same way, and copies of which statements have been forwarded to each of my colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 530.

Report from the Greek Village of Eminch, in District of Achialo, Missevria.

(Translation.)

ON the 4th May D. Bracaloff, accompanied by seventy armed men, came to the village, asking for the young men who have to draw for the militia. Our Mukhtar, Gaetano by name, asked for a delay of two hours to collect them, upon which, without other answer, he ordered the Mayor and headman to be thrown down and to be most cruelly beaten.

After this Bracaloff struck and insulted several women, and gave orders to his followers to break open the doors of the houses, and take what they liked. In

obedience to his order they carried off our poultry, twenty-seven sheep, and besides the wine they drank, staved in barrels containing 300 gallons of wine.

We cannot remember that the Turks ever treated us in such a barbarous manner.

Inclosure 3 in No. 530.

Report received from the Greek Village of Bana, in the District of Achialo, Missevria.

(Translation.)

BRACALOFF, President of the Administrative Council of the district, came here on the 3rd May, accompanied by seventy armed Bulgarian peasants from the villages of Erketch and Poulyoulon. He asked us to give up the young men who would have to ballot; we replied, "Within four hours all of them will be ready and brought before you."

Irritated by this answer, he gave orders to his followers, who beat us unmercifully and then broke into our houses, carrying off all they found here. Our Mukhtar being threatened with death escaped from our village, and Bracaloff, on the complaint of the bakal (grocer) that the Bulgarians had broken open his shop, replied that the villagers must pay the expenses of his escort—3,000 piastres.

No. 531.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 406.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Philippopolis, Adrianople, Rodosto, Gallipoli, Bagdad, Jeddah, Rustchuk, and Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert has learnt, from a confidential and trustworthy source, that the administration of the several districts of this province has been placed in the hands of Bulgarians recommended by the so-called National Committee (of the Eagle Society), in order that the Russian officers may avoid the humiliation of being compelled to resign in favour of Turkish officials.

The National Committee expects, according to the same source of information, that Aleko Pasha will confirm these appointments, that he will abstain from interfering with the gymnastic societies, and, in fact, conform in every particular to their wishes.

The Committee also declares that the peaceful attitude of the Bulgarian population of this province will depend on the observance of these conditions by Aleko Pasha.

Mr. Calvert has likewise been informed that the Committee will sit until and after the arrival of the Turkish Governor-General.

In conversation with General Stolipine I have pointed out the impossibility of carrying on the government of this province under pressure from self-constituted and irresponsible bodies of gymnasts and others, and his Excellency appeared to agree with me that such a state of things could not be tolerated under a settled form of government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 6, 1879.

Sir,

THE Governor-General having offered some days ago to supply me with information respecting the composition of the gymnastic societies and the character of the principal Bulgarian agitators in this province, I asked his Excellency yesterday if he would kindly let me have the Statutes under which a Committee of the Eagle Society, who are at present holding a session in this town to consider the course which should be adopted on the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian troops.

General Stolipine replied that the Society in question was supposed to be of a secret character, and that its proceedings were unknown to him officially. He had, however, tolerated its existence, because, with the co-operation of the Exarch, he had contrived to secure the prevalence of moderation in its views and proceedings. His Excellency added that he had "men of his own" sitting on the Committee, who kept him well informed, and through whom he exercised a considerable influence in the direction of appeasing political passions. The Committee to which I referred had, his Excellency stated, been detained at Philippopolis, in order to await the arrival of General Obrutcheff, who was the bearer of a Proclamation from the Czar to the inhabitants of this province, announcing the departure of the Russian army of occupation, and exhorting the Roumelians to a quiet and submissive enjoyment of the benefits that had been conferred on them. The delegates of whom I spoke would then return to their homes with a full conviction that any resistance to the will of Europe would be ineffectual, as well as dangerous to those who might attempt it.

I ventured to tell the General that, in my humble opinion, the expedient to which his Excellency had had recourse in order to tranquillize the public mind, namely, the toleration of a secret society which had arrogated to itself political functions, was of a very dangerous and treacherous character, and, in taking the liberty of asking for the Statutes of the society, I had naturally assumed that the laws of Russia in regard to the formation of such societies would have been applied in this province. Moreover, I had learnt that the society in question was at the present moment levying heavy contributions, under a process of intimidation which, I thought, no Administration, properly constituted, could tolerate. At Tatar-Bazardjik, for instance, some very large contributions were being extorted, and I had myself been supplied with a document proving that 20 half-Imperials (about 16*l.* 6*s.*) had been levied from a person in that town.

In reply, his Excellency urged that the exceptional difficulties of his position frequently compelled him to tolerate one evil in order to escape another of a graver kind; but the General assured me that he was not aware of the imposition of such large sums as I had mentioned, and that he would at once look into the matter.

At the same time, in order to prove that he was taking the most vigorous measures for the repression of disturbance and agitation, the Governor-General showed me a telegram which he had received, while I was present, from the Governor of Slivno, reporting that he had, in accordance with his Excellency's telegraphic instructions, made the officers in charge of districts responsible for any outbreak or recourse to arms, informing them also that they would be brought before a Court-martial in the event of their not being able to discover the instigators of any disorders that might occur.

The instructions in question had been sent by the Governor-General in connection with some complaints made by the Turkish inhabitants of Ahioli and Misseveria, near Bourgas, to the effect that the Bulgarians had threatened to drive them away.

The complaints must have been well founded, because I perceived, from the telegram which the Governor-General showed me, that he had sent a company of infantry for the purpose of disarming the Bulgarian ringleaders at those places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 7, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to the money contributions exacted from the people by the Committees of the Eagle Society in Eastern Roumelia, I beg to submit the following information, obtained by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert:—

Agop Mammigonian, an Armenian innkeeper of Tatar-Bazardjik, came to Mr. Calvert yesterday, and complained that he has been called upon to contribute to the "Patriotic Fund." He stated that the guild of innkeepers at his place of residence, composed chiefly of Bulgarians, notified to him the other day that he would have to pay 3 liras instead of half a lira (which is the lawful tax) for his licence, the surplus being for the Eagle Society's fund. He further alleged that numbers of persons at Tatar-Bazardjik have unwillingly contributed to the fund through fear of the consequences of non-compliance with the demands of the local Committee, all who demur to the payment of the money demanded being first threatened with punishment, and then imprisoned. He did not know the names of the persons who had incurred this punishment, but promised to learn them and communicate them to Mr. Calvert.

Mr. Calvert has also furnished me with a copy of a receipt (of which I herewith inclose a translation) for 20 Russian half-Imperials (pols) exacted from a Bulgarian doctor of Tatar-Bazardjik, who has complained to different people at Philippopolis of the extortion to which he has been subjected, and respecting which he dares not complain to the Russian authorities.

Mr. Calvert further informs me that the Bulgarian peasants of Eastern Roumelia have been subjected by the Eagle Society to a tax of £T. 2, £T. 1, £T. ½, according to the means of the persons laid under contribution. These are divided into three categories; and in various places the payment of the tax has been enforced by blows and imprisonment.

Mr. Calvert has further learnt that, at to-day's sitting of the National Committee, an account of the proceeds of the contributions levied was submitted to the meeting. It appeared from that account that, from the Province (Sandjak) of Philippopolis alone a sum of over 80,000 half-Imperials (over 65,000*l.*) has been levied.

The six districts of the Province of Philippopolis have contributed to the above amount in the following proportions:—

	Half-Imperials.
Philippopolis	25,000
Hasskeuf	10,000
Tatar-Bazardjik	16,000
Tchirpan	8,000
Eski-Zaghra	10,000
Kyzanlik	11,000
Total	80,000

Bulgarian peasants have, according to Mr. Calvert's informant, been imprisoned at the following places:—

Kayaly and Kourou Tcheshmé (Hasskeuï District); Dybeni, Voïnagorvo, and Oktchoular (Chiopson sub-District); and Aïvadjik, Streldja, and Tsalapitsa (Tatar-Bazardjik District.)

At Dybeni the men (six in number) who refused payment of the contribution are said to have been severely beaten.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 531.

Receipt for Contribution to Eagle Society.

(Translation.)

RECEIPT given to Dr. Hadji Lambri, who pays voluntarily a contribution of 20 pols into the chest of the Committee which has been appointed by the Eagle Society.

The President,
(Signed) VASSIL TRANDAPHILO.

Tatar-Bazardjik, April 13, 1879.

Inclosure 5 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith a Memorandum which has been drawn up by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, on the affairs of Macedonia, and from which it would appear that a fresh invasion of that province by the Bulgarians of the Principality, with a view to provoking an insurrection among their brethren of Macedonia, is in contemplation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 531.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

ACCORDING to information current among the members of the Eagle Society at Philippopolis, and in all probability in accordance with the advice of the Moscow Committee, it is expected that the so-called insurrection in Macedonia will break out afresh very shortly, if it has not already recommenced.

After the repression of the Bulgarian movement of last winter some hundreds of "insurgents" established themselves in the mountains which separate Macedonia from the Principality of Bulgaria. These bands have recently received large reinforcements, and are now said to number several thousands of men, and to have obtained leaders from Servia, Montenegro, and Russia. Foremost among the Russian officers who have taken the command of these bands are, it is reported, Colonel Alexandroff and Major Tchasky, who led the invasion of Macedonia last autumn.

The head-quarters from which the Macedonian movement is directed and assisted continues to be at Küstendil, where an insurrectionary committee for the adjoining province still holds its meetings. The President of this Committee is a M. Shuleff, a native of Veless, in Macedonia, and the Vice-President is M. Karamphiloff, who was till lately employed in Prince Dondoukoff's Chancellerie at Sophia.

M. Dimitroviteh, one of the emissaries of the Moscow Committee, who arrived here lately with money and a letter from that Committee to the Eagle Society of this province, started on the 25th ultimo for Küstendil, with a letter and a considerable sum of money for the Macedonian Insurrectionary Committee.

His companion, M. Kriloff, who at present holds, as I am informed, the appointment of Russian Vice-Consul for Scutari in Albania, was to have also proceeded to Küstendil and thence to have travelled to his post vià Macedonia, but he has since changed the itinerary of his journey, and started for Constantinople on the 4th instant.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopolis, May 6, 1879.

Inclosure 7 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 7, 1879.*

THE Governor-General having spoken to me again to-day about the new appointments which he had made, as reported in a previous despatch, I ventured to observe to his Excellency that the Greek element in this province would probably be dissatisfied with the exclusive appointment of Bulgarians to all the important posts of Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency said that some Greeks to whom he had offered appointments had refused to accept them, but that, as he had still two vacancies at his disposal, he would give them to Greeks, if he could find any willing to fill them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, I beg to forward herewith a translation of the Proclamation read this day to the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia by General Obrutcheff in the Russian language, and by the Exarch in that of the Bulgarians.

I shall not be able to send you until to-morrow a translation of General Obrutcheff's address, which is being printed.

There was a considerable amount of cheering in the church after the Exarch had read the Bulgarian version, and a very disorderly scramble ensued for the copies of the Proclamation.

The religious ceremony consisted in the chanting of the Easter Anthem, and in prayers for the Emperor and the other members of the Imperial family, who were all mentioned by the Bulgarian clergy, in the words of the Russian Liturgy, as:—"Our Sovereign, the Tsar;" "Our Lord, the Grand Duke Tsesarevitch," &c.

I am told that the ceremony of this morning has caused much dejection among the more aspiring Bulgarians of this city.

General Obrutcheff leaves to-morrow for Tatar-Bazardjik and other towns in this province for the purpose of reading the Emperor's Proclamation.

I may add that General Skobeleff, who has been here for a couple of days, was not present at the ceremony.

I have, &c
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 531.

Proclamation.

(Translation from the Russian.)

Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia,

HAVING adopted the firm intention of observing the resolutions of the Treaty of Berlin, and recognizing that it is only by the carrying out of those resolutions that the rights acquired for you by the force of Russian arms can be secured without fresh sacrifices and convulsions, I have ordered my troops to withdraw from your province on the expiration of the date fixed by Treaty for its occupation.

I thank you for the friendly and truly brotherly feelings which you have invariably manifested towards my troops during their stay amongst you, and for the feelings of devotion and gratitude which you have more than once expressed to me, and in my person to the entire Russian nation, for the sacrifices which it has made in the cause of your regeneration.

I do not doubt that you will transmit the same feelings to your children, and, through them, to your utmost posterity.

You are on the eve of the introduction amongst you of a new civil organization, which must be established in virtue of Treaty conditions and on the basis of a Statute, drawn up by an International Commission. I trust that you will on this occasion justify my expectations, and that you will not give cause for being accused of disturbing the peace and tranquillity which are so indispensable, both for your own welfare and for the happiness of your brethren, the Bulgarians of the Principality.

Reverting to your past, and comparing it with the new position which you will occupy, you can contemplate your future with confidence.

You will henceforth be secure in your civil rights. Your lives, your honour, and your property will be under the protection of laws, of which you will yourselves be the administrators.

You acquire extensive rights of self-government, and the possibility of disposing of the resources of the country in the manner which may seem best to you.

Lastly, at the head of your Administration will always stand one of your own brethren in the faith, a Christian.

In this manner rights which you have not hitherto enjoyed have been secured to you. It will depend upon yourselves to make use of those rights for your own welfare, for the peaceful and regular development of your civil life. Your future, Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, is now in your own hands.

I know there are many amongst you who are not satisfied with the position created for your country by the Treaty, and who desire by force and revolution* to attain an object incompatible with the decision of the Powers.

I cannot approve of such an intention, since its execution, without the will and consent of the Powers, is out of the question,† and might involve your country in fresh disasters.

Endeavour to counteract such illegal tendencies, which may sap at the very root of the work of the regeneration of your nationality now commenced, and by preserving peace, prepare yourselves, without any fear as to your future, for the reception of the rights to a new life which have been bestowed upon you.

I pray God to assist you on the path of your prosperity.

(Signed with His Imperial Majesty's own hand),
ALEXANDER.

St. Petersburgh, April $\frac{11}{23}$, 1879.

Inclosure 10 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)
Philippopolis, May 7, 1879.

Sir,

I ASKED General Stolipine this afternoon if the Committee of the "Eagle" Society was going to be allowed to remain in session at Philippopolis after the Proclamation which had been read by General Obrutcheff. His Excellency replied that eight moderate delegates would remain, because he considered them to be a valuable channel of information, and one through which he could convey counsels of moderation to persons who would otherwise be unapproachable.

In a friendly way I pointed out again to his Excellency that he was making use of a dangerous weapon, and that, moreover, the Committee was not only levying large sums of money all over the country, amounting in all to 80,000 half-Imperials, but was also dispatching considerable quantities of arms to neighbouring villages. I also added that his Excellency's sufferance of such proceedings would increase the difficulties of Aleko Pasha, who could certainly not permit the existence of a revolutionary Committee, however small its real power might be, alongside of the administration which was about to be introduced into the province under the Organic Statute.

The General replied, as on previous occasions, that the existence of the Committee was an evil which he was compelled by circumstances to tolerate, and that, as regards the levying of contributions, he had already put a stop to it; and I may add that the latter statement was repeated to me confidentially by the Chief of his Excellency's Chancery.

As regards the dispatch of arms, General Stolipine acknowledged his belief that the Committee had sent arms to Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 11 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 8, 1879.

Sir,

BY an order of the day, signed by the Governor-General on the 4th instant, the following appointments have been made, namely:—

1. Baron Hübsch-Grossthal to be "Adjoint" to the Governor-General, while temporarily fulfilling the duties of Governor of Philippopolis.

2. Captain Geuko, Chief of the Bourgas district, to be Police-master of Bourgas.

3. Lieutenant Volkoff, Chief of the district of Ahioli-Messivria, to be Commandant of Ahioli-Messivria, "in view of the constant disorders and collisions that take place in that locality between Christians and Mussulmans."

4. The following Bulgarians have been appointed Chiefs of districts ("Chefs d'Arrondissement"), namely:—

* Literally, by "forcible revolution."
† Literally, "not to be thought of."

Theophanes Räinoff, Philippopolis district; I. Naïdenoff, Stremia district; G. Consuloff, Kyzanlik district; C. Zolotareff, Hasskeui district; Nestor Markoff, Bourgas district; M. Kolaroff, Ahioli-Messivria district; Kojuharoff Spass, Karnabad district; Dogoroff, Yeni-Zaghra district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 12 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir,
Philippopolis, May 8, 1879.

COLONEL VITALIS, who states that he has been appointed by the Sultan to the command of the Eastern Roumelian gendarmerie and militia, came to the Consulate-General this afternoon, accompanied by twenty-five Turks, and asked my advice as to the manner in which he ought to proceed with their enrolment in the gendarmerie.

I replied that, as I had no instructions on the subject, I could not give him any official advice, but that, in my opinion, his appointment by the Sultan could not come into force until after the arrival of the Turkish Governor-General, and that it therefore appeared advisable that he should abstain from actively enrolling a Turkish force alongside of a Bulgarian militia created by the Russian Governor-General and commanded by an officer of his own selection.

The Colonel appeared to [accept] this unofficial advice, and said he would merely take down the names of the men who were willing to serve in the gendarmerie.

It is, I think, evident that so long as the Russian Governor-General is responsible for the maintenance of order and tranquillity, he is not likely to take from an officer appointed by himself, and give over to a French officer appointed by the Sultan, the command of the local militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—I must add that, in the course of conversation, Colonel Vitalis asked me to listen to the complaints of some of his Turks on the subject of their being drafted into the militia by the Russian authorities, but I equally refused to interfere in such a matter, and the men left without seeing me.

T. M.

Inclosure 13 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir,
Philippopolis, May 9, 1879.

GENERAL OBRUTCHEFF received the day before yesterday a deputation from the Turkish inhabitants of this town, and told them that he had brought them greetings from the Czar and the Sultan, whose joint desire was that the Mussulmans should live on an amicable and peaceful footing with their Christian fellow-subjects.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert has been informed that the General explained to the deputation that the arms which have been distributed to the Bulgarians were not intended to be used by the latter against their Turkish neighbours, but, in case of need, against the Bashi-Bazouks of Mount Rhodope, who might attempt to attack the Bulgarians of the plain.

M. Groueff, a Bulgarian notable, and President of the Local Civil Court, who was present at the interview, was at first called upon by the General to act as his interpreter with the Turks, but, as he misrendered certain passages of the General's address, General Hübsch, who speaks Turkish well, roughly ordered him to withdraw, and himself translated General Obrutcheff's words to the Turkish deputation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 14 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Philippopolis, May 9, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to forward herewith a translation of General Obrutcheff's address to the Bulgarians, reported in my despatch of the 7th instant.

The translation has been made from his Excellency's own draft of the address, and having been present when the latter was delivered, I am able to state that the General's words were an exact reproduction of the original draft.

The General has left this afternoon for Tatar-Bazardjik, Slivno, and other towns in this province, for the purpose of reading the Emperor's Proclamation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—General Obrutcheff has returned from Tatar-Bazardjik, and leaves to-morrow for Tirnovo, with a Proclamation to the Bulgarians of the Principality.

T. M.

Inclosure 15 in No. 531.

General Obrutcheff's Address to the Bulgarians after the reading of the Proclamation of the Emperor of Russia.

(Translation from the Russian.)

HAVE you heard and understood the message of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander? Is it clear to you what he wishes? He trusts that you will honestly and peaceably carry out all that has been laid upon you by the Treaty, and that you will abstain from all disorders.

By the shedding of Russian blood and the sacrifices of the Russian people you have acquired rights which render your welfare secure.

Although all your hopes have not been realized, yet what has been given to you is a great benefit.

You are now citizens possessing full rights, and the complete masters of your own affairs and of your own labour. Henceforth, it will depend upon you alone to prepare for yourselves a flourishing future.

But remember that this can only be attained by peaceable means. Neither Russia nor Europe desires the shedding of another drop of blood. You must prove to Europe that you are capable of a peaceable civil development, and then to the sympathy so largely felt for you by Russia will be added the good-will of the whole of Europe.

Take care, above all, not to lose what has been granted to you; give no cause for interference in your affairs, and then you will have nothing to fear.

In sending me to you, His Majesty charged me at the same time to deliver to the Sultan his autograph letter, in which he expresses a hope that His Majesty the Sultan, fully appreciating both his own interests and the general interests of Europe, will likewise keep in view the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in your country and the firm establishment of its prosperity.

Having had an audience of His Majesty the Sultan and conversations with his Ministers, I have derived a firm conviction that the Porte is animated towards you with truly honest and good intentions.

With the exception of the Governor-General, appointed by the Porte, with the consent of the Great Powers, and belonging to your own race, you will not see in your country any other Turkish authorities.

You have likewise nothing to fear from Turkish troops.

Your country is shielded from them by Treaty, and the Porte is least of all disposed to seek any cause whatever for the infringement of your tranquillity.

The Porte does not think even of hastening the occupation of the Balkans.

While reserving to itself, in all its integrity, the right of establishing frontier garrisons, the Porte does not at present see the immediate necessity of availing itself of that right; and I am convinced that your conduct can have an immense influence on a practical solution of that question.

The combination made in regard to garrisoning the Balkans, and created by the

mistrust of the Powers as regards the new state of affairs in the Balkan Peninsula, will probably collapse of its own accord, when the groundless fears aroused by the late war are dissipated.

It seems that the strategical advantages of that combination are no longer defended by any one.

It will depend upon you that its political uselessness should likewise be acknowledged. Only keep yourselves quiet; do not yourselves evoke the necessity of the presence of Turkish troops in your country.

The Porte will control its regular forces; against, however, the incursions of Bashi-Bazouks, you have arms; they have been given to you for that purpose, in order that you may defend against miscreants your wives and children, and in order that in your country may not be repeated those horrors from which it has suffered for so many ages.

Henceforward, your position is a stable one; enjoy its benefits without any fear.

Render thanks to the Creator for that position; thank also the Russian people; and preserve for ever an ineffaceable gratitude towards the great Czar, your liberator. Let us, then, pray for the preservation and prolongation of his precious days.

Inclosure 16 in No. 531.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May 9, 1879.

LE Général Obrutcheff, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, est arrivé le 24 courant dans notre ville. Son Excellence était porteur d'une Proclamation de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie adressée aux Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale.

Le 25 courant, à 10 heures et demie du matin, son Excellence le Général Obrutcheff s'est rendu à la Cathédrale de notre ville, et en présence de tout le clergé, des autorités civiles et militaires, et d'une nombreuse foule d'habitants de Philippopoli il a donné lecture de la Proclamation de Sa Majesté l'Empereur. Sa Béatitude l'Exarque a lu la traduction en Bulgare de ce même document.

Après cela, le Général Obrutcheff a prononcé un discours de circonstance, par lequel il a exorté les Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale à se conformer aux désirs de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et à la volonté des Grandes Puissances. La fin de ce discours a été couvert d'enthousiastes hourra pour Sa Majesté le Czar-Libérateur.

Enfin un Te Deum a été chanté pour la conservation des jours précieux de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies et de la Famille Impériale.

A la sortie de l'église des détachements de deux droujinas Bulgares ont été passés en revue par le Général Obrutcheff. Pendant la revue la musique militaire jouait la Marche Bulgare.

La revue finie, Sa Béatitude l'Exarque, tous les Chefs religieux, des Notables de la ville, les représentants de tous les districts de la Roumélie Orientale qui se trouvaient reuni à Philippopoli, ont été reçus par son Excellence le Général Obrutcheff dans la maison du Dr. Rachko, où il avait pris quartier.

Voici la traduction de la Proclamation de Sa Majesté l'Empereur :—

"Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale!

"Ayant pris la ferme résolution d'exécuter les dispositions du Traité de Berlin, et reconnaissant que seulement par l'exécution de ces dispositions pourront être assurés, sans de nouveaux sacrifices et de nouvelles secousses, les droits qui vous ont été acquis par les armes Russes, j'ai donné ordre à mes armées de commencer l'évacuation de votre province après l'expiration du terme fixé par le Traité pour l'occupation.

"Je vous remercie pour les dispositions amicales et véritablement fraternelles, que vous n'avez cessé de montrer à l'égard de mes armées pendant leur séjour parmi vous, et pour les sentiments de devouement et de reconnaissance que vous avez exprimés à plusieurs reprises à moi, et en ma personne à tout le peuple Russe, pour les sacrifices qu'il a supportés pour votre régénération. Je ne doute pas que vous transmettrez ces mêmes sentiments à vos enfants, ainsi qu'à votre postérité.

"Prochainement il sera introduit chez vous une nouvelle organisation politique, qui sera établie d'après les conditions du Traité et les bases du Statut élaboré par la Commission Internationale. J'espère que vous justifierez mes espérances, et que vous ne donnerez pas de motif pour qu'on vous accuse d'avoir troublé la paix et la tranquil-

lité, si indispensables tant pour votre bien-être que pour le bonheur de vos frères Bulgares de la Principauté.

"En faisant la comparaison de votre passé avec la nouvelle situation dans laquelle vous allez entrer, vous pouvez regarder avec confiance votre avenir.

"Dorénavant vos droits civils et politiques vous sont garantis. Votre vie, votre honneur, et vos biens, se trouveront sous la sauvegarde des lois, dont l'application appartiendra à vous-mêmes.

"Des droits d'une large autonomie vous sont donnés, et vous pourrez disposer des moyens de votre pays comme vous le jugerez plus sagement à propos. Enfin, à la tête de votre Administration se trouvera toujours un des vos frères, en religion, un Chrétien.

"De cette façon, des droits dont vous n'avez pas joui jusqu'à présent vous sont garantis. C'est de vous qu'il dépend de les employer pour votre bien, pour le développement paisible et régulier de votre vie politique. Votre avenir, Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale, se trouve maintenant entre vos mains.

"Je sais qu'il y a plusieurs d'entre vous qui sont mécontents de la situation dans laquelle le Traité a placé votre pays, et qui désirent par un changement violent atteindre un but contraire aux décisions des Puissances.

"Je ne puis pas approuver une telle intention parce que sa réalisation est impossible sans la volonté et le consentement des Puissances, et pourra attirer sur votre pays de nouvelles calamités. Tâchez de réagir contre de telles aspirations illégales, qui peuvent saper dans la racine même l'œuvre à peine commencée de la régénération de notre nationalité, et en maintenant la tranquillité, soyez prêts, sans avoir des craintes pour votre avenir, de recevoir les droits qui vous sont accordés pour une nouvelle vie.

"Que Dieu vous soit en aide dans la voie de votre progrès.

"Sur l'original de la propre main de Sa Majesté Impériale il est écrit:

"ALEXANDRE.

"*St. Pétersbourg, le* 11 *Avril*, 1879."

Le Général Obroutcheff se propose à faire une tournée dans toutes les grandes villes de la Roumélie Orientale pour expliquer de vive voix aux populations la ferme volonté du Czar-Libérateur.

La Proclamation de l'Empereur de Russie est traduite en Bulgare, et 10,000 exemplaires sont déjà prêts à être envoyés dans toutes les localités de la Roumélie Orientale.

Nous apprenons que le Général Obroutcheff est chargé par l'Empereur d'une semblable mission dans la Principauté Bulgare.

Inclosure 17 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 9, 1879.

I BEG to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert on the latest decision of the National Committee of the Eagle Society, which has been sitting in this town.

General Obrutcheff received a deputation from that Committee, and I am informed did his best to impress upon them the necessity of a quiet and submissive attitude.

I have also learnt from several sources that the Emperor's Proclamation has had the effect of leaving the most prominent malcontents in a very small minority.

The Bulgarian Archbishop's visit to me this morning is, I believe, a proof that the so-called National Committee has lost all cohesion. The Prelate had some difficulty in persuading the notables to accompany him. They expressed a desire to wait upon me without the Archbishop, because he was known to be an ardent supporter of the Pan-Bulgarian cause, and the negotiations that ensued on this subject prevented the Archbishop from coming to the Consulate-General till nearly an hour after the time which had been mutually appointed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 18 in No. 531.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

ACCORDING to information derived from a trustworthy source, the decision adopted by the National Committee on Saturday last, in favour of submission to the will of Europe, was made dependent on the following conditions:—

1. That the new Governor-General shall not interfere with the Gymnastic Societies.
2. That no Turkish troops shall enter Eastern Roumelia.
3. That no Turkish refugees shall be allowed to return with arms.
4. That the Governors of Philippopolis and Slivno (as being the principal towns of Eastern Roumelia) shall be Bulgarians.

The orator who was most strenuous in advocating the adoption of these conditions asked, in concluding his speech, "What can fourteen Commissioners and one Governor-General do against us?" His words were greeted with loud applause.

It remains now to be seen whether the Proclamation read by General Obrutcheff yesterday will produce any change in the attitude of the National Committee.

That the present submissive and conciliatory attitude of the Bulgarians is merely, as far as regards the Patriotic Committee, who dictate the conduct of the Slav population, a truce to be broken on the first signal from Moscow, is indicated by the character of the Bulgarian officials, who have just been appointed to replace Russian officers as Chiefs of districts. These men are all well-known agitators. I hope to be able shortly to furnish some details regarding their respective antecedents.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopolis, May 8, 1879.

Inclosure 19 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 9, 1879.

M. NEKLUDOFF, the Chief of the Governor-General's Chancery, came to see me this morning on what he announced to be a very grave question.

It had been reported to the Governor-General that Colonel Vitalis was engaged in enrolling Turks in a local gendarmerie, and that he had left at the house of the British Commission in this town a list of the men whom he had thus enrolled.

As it was evident that the Governor-General had been informed of Colonel Vitalis' visit to me, in company with twenty-five Turks, I thought it right to tell M. Nekludoff at once that I had refused to have anything to say to the men who had been so unexpectedly brought into my courtyard yesterday by Colonel Vitalis, although he had asked me to listen to their complaints on the subject of their enrolment in the militia by the Russian authorities.

I did not admit any knowledge of the alleged proceedings of Colonel Vitalis, but expressed my dissatisfaction with the course which M. Nekludoff assured me the Colonel had taken, and which, in my opinion, would be, to say the least, inconsistent with the present order of things in this province.

I also satisfied M. Nekludoff that no muster-roll had been left by Colonel Vitalis at the house of the Commission, and I begged him to advise the Governor-General to abstain from his alleged intention of giving official publicity, by means of notes addressed to the several Consuls at this residence, to an incident which, if correctly reported to his Excellency, could only have been the result of thoughtlessness.

Having since met the French Consul, I have learnt from him that he intends to induce Colonel Vitalis to leave for Constantinople to-morrow morning, in order to avoid the possibility of his being arrested and expelled from the province by the order of the Governor-General, M. Nekludoff having hinted that such was his Excellency's intention.

It appears that Colonel Schepeleff, the Russian Commissioner, met Colonel Vitalis and his twenty-five Turks on their way to my house, and that, in reply to the Commissioner, Colonel Vitalis told him that his followers were "destined for the gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia."

This injudicious proceeding on the part of Colonel Vitalis does not, I think, place

in a favourable light his fitness for the responsible and delicate post to which he aspires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 20 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 9, 1879.

THE Bulgarian Archbishop, accompanied by three Bulgarian notables, came to the Consulate-General this morning by appointment, and delivered a long speech on the religious and political questions that have so long agitated this province.

His Grace expressed much gratitude for the support which his Church had received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in the cause of its independence, and proceeded to draw a dark picture of the political sufferings of his flock under Mussulman rule.

At the same time, while regretting the severance of Eastern Roumelia from the Principality of Bulgaria, he acknowledged the benefits which his brethren on this side of the Balkans were about to receive at the hands of Europe, and assured me that his countrymen would look more especially to England for the maintenance and development of the rights which had been secured to them under the Treaty of Berlin.

I thanked the Archbishop for his appreciation of the efforts which England had made in the cause of their religious liberty, and for the confidence which his Grace had expressed in the intentions of England in respect to the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

As, however, the Archbishop and the notables who accompanied him appeared to dwell very pointedly on the absence of Turkish garrisons in the Balkans, I took the opportunity of repeating to them what I had previously stated to the Exarch, viz., that although the Turks might not be in occupation of the Balkans, yet that troops would certainly be brought into the province on the slightest symptoms of rebellion or disorder. I impressed them with the necessity of respecting the law, and explained to them that even in England and America armed rioters were liable to be shot down if they refused to disperse when summoned to do so by the properly constituted authorities.

A similar course would certainly be pursued in Eastern Roumelia, in the interest of the country itself and of all good citizens.

The deputation were loud in their protestations that their only desire was to live in peace and amity with their fellow-countrymen, and that their only fear was lest Greek and Turkish intrigue should succeed in attributing disorder and opposition to the meek and peace-loving Bulgarians.

I told them in reply that the Great Powers of Europe were too much interested in the success of their labours on behalf of the inhabitants of this province to allow any intrigues or any agitators to interfere with the completion and development of the work of establishing peace and prosperity, and that they must have seen from the Emperor's Proclamation that Russia was equally resolved to admit no opposition to the will of the Great Powers.

Some conversation having ensued on the hardship of nominally severing the southern from the northern Bulgarians, I expatiated on the necessity of submitting to interests that were paramount and of far greater importance to the civilized world than the interests and desires which they had expressed. I pointed to the case of Poland as one in which local national interests of very long standing had been made subservient to the interests of the Russian Empire, and, in order to mitigate the allusion, I reminded them that there was even in Ireland a party that wished to be politically severed from the British Empire, the paramount interests of which, however, demanded the continuance of a union that was practically beneficial to both countries.

In the same manner the continued union of Eastern Roumelia with Turkey proper would become only a sentimental grievance as soon as the new form of administration, so carefully devised by an International Commission, shall be brought into operation and carried out under the strict and jealous supervision of the Great Powers.

I also told them that since the intelligence of the southern Bulgarians was reputed to be superior to that of their northern brethren, who had, at the same time,

the disadvantage of possessing a less fruitful soil, I had no doubt that they would soon cause the Bulgarians of the Principality to be envious of the prosperity which would be established on this side of the Balkans.

The deputation then referred to the injustice which had been done to their Archbishop by giving precedence to the Greek Archbishop under the Organic Statute prepared by the Commission, and expressed a hope that this and other minor defects would be remedied on the practical application of the theories by which the Commission had been guided.

I answered that I had no knowledge on the subject, but that, as the powers of the Commission would probably be prolonged for the very purpose of giving effect to its labours, it would certainly be part of its duty to correct any mistakes that might have been made, although it was not probable that any essential mistakes would be discovered, since the Organic Statute had been adopted by the Great Powers unanimously.

The Archbishop and the persons by whom he was accompanied then expressed their regret at having had so little communication with the Commission, and asked permission to seek in future my advice and assistance.

In assuring them of the great pleasure I should always feel in receiving them, I told them that my advice to them for the present was, in the words of well known Russian proverbs, "Those who go more slowly arrive more surely," and "The Copack who bears with his lot is sure to become an Ataman" (Hetman).

The conversation was carried on in Bulgarian on the part of the deputation, and my answers were made in Russian, to our mutual comprehension.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 21 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 9, 1879.

A DEPUTATION from the Greek town of Stanimaka waited upon me this morning to ask my advice as to what they should do in the matter of supplying recruits to the local militia. They complained that the Russian authorities had demanded sixty recruits from their town, according to a list drawn up at Philippopolis, without reference to the domestic position of the men who were inscribed on that list. They said also that in the Greek villages the number of recruits had been fixed arbitrarily and in disproportion with the relative strength of the population. Thus, the Greek village of Kuklena was required to furnish ten recruits, while the Greek village of Vodena, which was considerably larger than Kuklena, was only called upon to furnish one.

I told them that I had no official concern in such a matter, and could, therefore, give them no advice as British Consul-General.

My private advice to them, however, was to obey the orders of the Russian authorities, since the province was still under a Russian Administration, as a different course might render them liable to serious consequences, while, at the same time, it would give the Russian authorities a right to say that the Greek subjects of the Porte in Eastern Roumelia were not inclined to bear the same burdens as their Bulgarian fellow-countrymen. Moreover, their non-participation in the conscription would have the effect of imparting an exclusively Bulgarian character to the militia.

I added that any injustice that might be committed in the selection of recruits could easily be remedied by petitioning the Governor-General in each separate case, and that, at all events, the Turkish Governor-General would certainly redress any grievances that might be substantiated after his arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 22 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 11, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose a further Memorandum by Mr. Calvert on the subject of the collection of money contributions by the Eagle Committee, and reporting the recent arrival from Russia of another secret agent, supposed to be the bearer of instructions for the Macedonian Insurrectionary Committee.

From this Memorandum it would appear that the contributions collected by the Eagle Society in Eastern Roumelia amount to about 140,000 half-Imperials.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 23 in No. 531.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

THE total amount of the contributions levied by the Eagle Society in the Province of Slivno, according to the account rendered to the National Committee on Saturday, the 3rd instant, is, I am credibly informed, about 60,000 half-Imperials (nearly 49,000*l.*). To this sum the seven districts of Slivno have contributed in the following proportions:—

	Half-Imperials.
District—	
Slivno	19,000
Yeni-Zaghra	4,000
Yamboli	9,000
Karnabad	10,000
Misseyria	5,000
Ahioli	6,000
Bourgas	7,000
Total	60,000

With the 80,000 half-Imperials collected in the Province of Philippopolis, therefore, the Eagle Society have now about 140,000 half-Imperials (or about 114,000*l.*) in their chest, derived from Eastern Roumelia alone. This is exclusive of the subsidies they have received, at different times, from the Moscow Committee, which amount, I am informed, to 200,000*l.* or 300,000*l.* more. Some of the contributions obtained in Eastern Roumelia have, no doubt, been voluntary, but the far greater part has been collected either by terrorism or by cunning appeals to the fears of the peasantry.

It has come to my knowledge that Nikovitch, an Austrian Serb, in the employ of the Moscow Committee, arrived here about three weeks ago, and, after a short stay at Philippopolis, proceeded to Küstendil, bearing, it is supposed, directions for the local insurrectionary Committee for Macedonia. Nikovitch, I am further assured, holds a commission of Major in the Russian army.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopolis, May 11, 1879.

Inclosure 24 in No. 531.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 12, 1879.

Sir,

IN the course of a private conversation with the Bulgarian Archbishop, I mentioned that I had noticed his use of the prayers of the Russian Liturgy for the Emperor and the rest of the Imperial Family, and I asked him whether the priests of the Bulgarian churches were generally in the habit of reciting those prayers and calling upon the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia to pray for "Our Sovereign Lord, the Emperor," &c.

The Archbishop replied that the use of those prayers had been introduced when the Russians occupied the country, and that they were recited in all Bulgarian churches. He hinted, however, that all this would be put right when the Russian occupation ceased, and when also it would be necessary to print for popular use the Liturgy of the Bulgarian Church; but, for that purpose, he said, it was necessary that the Sultan should make a grant of money, as the Church would not be able to defray the expense out of its own funds.

It might, perhaps, be politic on the part of the Sultan to make a small grant, and thus to secure, as early as possible, the recital of his name as the Sovereign of this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 25 in No. 531.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 8, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will doubtless learn from General Baker Pasha all the difficulties which Colonel Blunt has had to contend with in the task of organizing that important branch of provincial administration, the gendarmerie.

Those difficulties have arisen in part from the want of funds and in part from the hostile influences of the Seraskierate. A great part of the men and some of the officers sent from Constantinople were the refuse of the Turkish army and have had to be turned back. A number of former zaptiehs unfavourably known in the province were also sent forward and similarly rejected. In order the more effectually to break with every tradition of the old Turkish police service, Colonel Blunt has deemed it advisable to make it a rule not to accept the services of any former zaptieh whatever.

The unwillingness to supply proper men from Constantinople would not so much matter were it not for the extreme scantiness of the funds paid over for the gendarmerie service. Otherwise Colonel Blunt would, he assures me, undertake to obtain here as many recruits of the proper sort as are wanted. So far, only 380 gendarmes have been enrolled. There are but few Christians in the force as yet. Those few are found to work well with the Turks, but Colonel Blunt fears to enrol more lest they should bear irregularity of pay less patiently than the Turks are accustomed to do.

In the meanwhile an occult agitation has been set on foot with the object of making out that the employment of highly paid English gendarmerie officers is a useless expense. As I have taken occasion to point out to Réouf Pasha, independently of the question of efficiency (which, as the Vali remarked, is, in the case of Colonel Blunt, undoubted), the moral effect on the Christian population of the employment of those officers at the head of the gendarmerie corps is enormous, and there is good reason to believe that if the circumstance is turned to proper account the greater part, if not the whole, of the Christian refugees from this province now in Eastern Roumelia will be induced to return to their homes.

A subordinate employé from the Ministry of Police, a man of an obviously low type, who arrived here a few days ago, and who it is known is destined to occupy the post of Superintendent of Police, now gives out that he has at the same time to exercise supreme control over the gendarmerie.

In short, there are in this matter the usual signs of the Turkish tendency to pull to pieces every new measure before it has been well put together, much less had a fair trial.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 26 in No. 531.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Réouf Pasha, with the co-operation of the experienced staff of functionaries now here, continues to work indefatigably at the task of administrative organization. Although strictly speaking the system thus being elaborated can of course only be regarded as of a temporary character, the Vali informs me that it is his aim to produce such a scheme of pro-

vincial government as will leave little or no room for improvement when the time comes for the adoption of a definite Organic Law, and his Excellency expresses the hope that the merits of the system will be so proved by its satisfactory working as to entitle it to serve as a model for the other provinces of the Empire.

There are now being fitted up at the Government konak, on the European model, four chambers destined for the Courts of Justice, namely, the Civil and Criminal Tribunals, with their respective Courts of Appeal. These, it is hoped, will be ready next week, when they will be opened with great solemnity. The Consular Body will be invited to attend the ceremony. The persons appointed by the Porte to the Presidency and other functions in connection with these Courts are highly spoken of, and admitted by all to belong to the best class of Ottoman officials.

Municipal improvements, so urgently needed, have remained as yet in abeyance, and for this reason, that Réouf Pasha is desirous that the necessary funds should be voted, and the nature of the improvements be determined and carried out by a duly constituted municipal body. Boyadjian Effendi, an Armenian official who is well spoken of, has just arrived here, charged to organize the elections in the first place, and afterwards to put the municipal machinery into proper working order.

I beg leave respectfully to submit that, in order to enable me the better to study and form an appreciation of the measures now being prepared, it were desirable that I should have a copy of the Cretan Organic Law of 1868, which, according to the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, is to form the basis of the organization to be introduced into the Turkish Empire at large. I would therefore request your Excellency to be pleased to cause a copy of that document to be forwarded to me, and likewise, as soon as they are published, a copy of the Organic Statutes and Règlements adopted by the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 27 in No. 531.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rodosto, le 9 Mai, 1879.

Excellence,

DEPUIS quelque temps le brigandage se propage dans cet arrondissement malgré que la police met toute sa bonne volonté pour le detruire.

Voici ce qui s'est passé la Semaine Sainte dans le district du Hairabol:—Six pauvres marchands Grecs des villages de Ganno et Ardim, pendant ces derniers jours se trouvaient aux villages d'Ouzoun-Keupru pour faire des achats en œufs et en blé; en retournant chez eux avec sept bêtes chargées pour les fêtes de Pâques, ils ont été arrêtés par cinq brigands Turcs, qui, leur ayant lié les mains avec leur ceinture, les égorgèrent l'un après l'autre dans un profond ravin entre la ferme Koz-Iceuk et le village Tatar-Keui.

Cette triste nouvelle s'étant répandue après quelques jours, notre Mutessarif, Abdi Effendi, prit des mesures énergiques, télégraphia aux Caimacams dans tous les districts pour la recherche de ces bandits, et, en même temps, il envoya le Chef de la Police, le brave Bimbassi Ettom Effendi, qui a réussi d'en arrêter trois; en outre il saisit quinze autres qui avaient commis des vols précédemment.

Il faut espérer qu'à l'avenir la tranquillité sera assurée, car le Bimbassi, qui mérite des éloges, a pu arrêter aussi les recéleurs des bandits.

De votre Excellence, &c.
(Signé) H. DUSSI.

Inclosure 28 in No. 531.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Malet.

Rustchuk, May 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to represent to your Excellency that a great change is in prospect in the Government of Bulgaria by the appointment of District Governors, each of whom is totally independent of the others, and only dependent on the central authority, and the proposed abolition of the Governors of provinces.

This arrangement will render the working of the Capitulations much more difficult,

unless some measures are taken to prevent it, as, for instance, if a British subject has any difficulty, say at Silistria, Ichtiman, Rasgrad, Shegtandjieh, Sistov, or Nicopolis, under the existing regulations, and applies to me, it is probable that I can arrange matters for him, either amicably or otherwise, through the Governor of Rustchuk, who is, or was, Chief of all those districts; but in future, I would require to apply to one of those independent District Governors, to whom I am not at present accredited.

Doubtless the various Vice-Consuls could be accredited to all the District Governors with whom it is advisable they should be put in relations, but this would be to carry on the service at considerably greater outlay, and with many delays. I, therefore, feel that, from this point of view, the changes in prospect are to be regretted, and I doubt if they will be as economical for the Bulgars as they seem to think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 29 in No. 531.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Bourgas, May 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I am informed, not officially, but on unexceptional authority, of orders having been received to place the conduct of public affairs throughout Eastern Roumelia in the hands of Bulgarians alone, the Russians withdrawing from all responsibility and participation in the public administration of the different districts.

The names of the Bulgarians who have been selected as Governors respectively of Bourgas, Aidos, and Karnabad, have been mentioned to me. The Russian officer who has hitherto acted as Governor resigns his post, and is appointed Town Major (Platz Adjutant), a post which is purely military.

I have the honour to beg that your Excellency will instruct me as to how far such Bulgarian authorities, named by General Stolipine, but neither elected by popular vote nor, I believe, provided with the sanction of the European Commission, or of the Porte, are to be recognized, under present circumstances, by Her Majesty's Consuls in this province.

My Austrian colleague informs me that he is writing to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy for instructions on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 532.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 288.)

My Lord,

Rome, May 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 282 of the 14th instant, transmitting a copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, relative to the regulations existing in Greece with regard to schools opened for the education of non-Orthodox children, but to which children of the Orthodox faith may be admitted; and instructing me to make known to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the necessity of any cession of territory which may be made to Greece in Epirus and Thessaly being subject to the condition that the Greek Government shall bestow upon its new subjects in the ceded territory the same liberty in respect to the exterior practice of religion that is conferred upon them by the laws of the Ottoman Empire.

In an interview which I had yesterday with M. Depretis, I fully explained the views of Her Majesty's Government upon this subject as set forth in your Lordship's despatch. His Excellency informed me that he entirely shared these views, and would be prepared to act upon them at the proper moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 533.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 229.) *Rome, May 20, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Messrs. Gueshoff and Yancoloff, delegates from Eastern Roumelia, arrived in Rome and were received by the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the course of last week. The Italian papers have published the petition which they presented to his Excellency, and I inclose a copy of it as given by the "Italie."

In reply to an inquiry which I made of M. Depretis yesterday, as to what he had said to these two persons, his Excellency informed me that he had stated to them that he was the best possible friend to the Roumelians, and that, as such, his advice to them was to return to their country, and to devote their energies to its peaceful development and organization, under the terms of the Treaty of Berlin; that Italy as a party to that Treaty was bound by its engagements, and that he could, therefore, not encourage them to hope for any assistance from the Italian Government for setting the provisions of this Treaty aside.

M. Depretis added to me, however, that he thought the policy of the Western Powers towards Roumelia ought to be framed with a view to convincing the inhabitants of that province that Russia was not their only friend, and that they had more to gain by looking to England, France, and Italy than to the Power just named.

M. Depretis states that Messrs. Gueshoff and Yancoloff had spoken of the determination of the Roumelians to resist the garrisoning of the Balkan fortresses by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 534.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 230.) *Rome, May 20, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have stated to M. Depretis, in accordance with your Lordship's despatch No. 289 of the 16th instant, with reference to his Excellency's note, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 208 of the 11th instant, in which a doubt was raised whether the assent of the Powers to the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg to the throne of Bulgaria should not be signified in some collective act, that Her Majesty's Government believe that such assent has been given by the Powers individually, and that it is, therefore, unnecessary to raise any question tending to delay.

M. Depretis replied that he did not see how delay could be caused by such a mode of proceeding, but that it was not a matter to which the Italian Government attached much importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 535.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, May 23.)

Constantinople, le 22 Mai, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

UN télégramme de notre Commandant Militaire de Larisse porte qu'un détachement Ottoman de quarante-six hommes étant tombé dans une embuscade dressée par des brigands Hellènes dans une forêt du district de Trinkala, ces bandits, après avoir tué quatorze de ces soldats, dépecèrent leurs cadavres et en suspendirent les morceaux aux branches des arbres de la forêt. Ce fait atroce a été constaté sur les lieux.

No. 536.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 444.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 22, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Michell, dated yesterday:—

"I have just seen Governor-General and General Obrutcheff, who has purposely returned to suppress agitation respecting the appointment of Vitalis.

"Both Generals recognize necessity of maintaining latter, however lamentable the choice, but think it absolutely necessary to insist on his abandoning intention of appointing adventurous (*sic*) Frenchman, equally ignorant of Bulgarian language, chief of the staff.

"Measures have been taken to prevent militia officers from resigning bodily, and Bulgarian protest will not be received.

"Bulgarian prelates, with deputation, received after me. They will be addressed by General Obrutcheff with firmness."

No. 537.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 22, 1879.*

I LEARN that the Russian Ambassador is working to obtain from the different Governments instructions to Commission (?) to exercise a severe control over the action of the Governor-General. I consider such control would be very mischievous.

Aleko Pasha not having fixed his departure none of the Commissioners will move. They do not like to accompany him. Whether he starts or not I shall leave Saturday (?).

No. 538.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 23, 1879.*

I HAVE sent following figures to Sir H. Layard:—

"(Confidential.)

"I am off on Sunday with Austrian Commissioner. Aleko goes Monday.

"The Turkish Commissioners are making difficulties about going, the real reason of which I take to be that their pay is in arrear, and that no arrangements had been made for their future payment. They are very firm about this. M. de Ring, I hear, talks of not starting till Turks do so, and if this goes on, the Commission will not be constituted for many days. Could not this be arranged at once?"

No. 539.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)

May 23, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

A LONG meeting to-day, but unable to agree as to the point of departure of frontier.

As reported in my telegram of the 19th, Russian endeavoured to re-establish frontier which they had engaged to erase, such an erasure being a condition of my taking part on the Commission. They then sought to show that I had withdrawn my right to participate in fixation of the point, whereas I made the withdrawal of my demand to revise fixation conditional on their acceptation of a point on the frontier traced, and erasing the rest. See my despatch No. 27.

I insisted on the maintenance of the point to which I had originally agreed as the point of departure for our demarcation. Russian is endeavouring to gain a point on

the Zewin position, which, if it is conceded, would be fatal to the defence of this position. Turk took my view. The case admits of no compromise. I beg that your Lordship will give no decision until you have received my despatch No. 38.

No. 540.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 57.)
(Telographic.) *Foreign Office, May 23, 1879.*

YOURS, No. 88. Your answer respecting Consulate-General in Bulgaria was correct.

No. 541.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 69. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have to-day received a letter from the Voïvoda Radonich, dated the 21st instant, and which has been delayed by bad weather, informing me that Prince Nicholas, in the hope of making an opening for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Turkey, announced on the 17th, in a most courteous telegram to the Sultan, the birth of a son.

M. Radonich further states in his letter that the despatch of a Montenegrin Envoy to Constantinople is only delayed on financial grounds, and from the difficulty of fixing on a proper person for the mission.

I have asked Mr. Malet what advice I can tender to Prince Nicholas under these circumstances which may help to end the estrangement which exists between Turkey and the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 542.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 70. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 69, Political, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that I have been summoned to Cettinjé by Prince Nicholas, and that I shall start for Montenegro to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 543.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 74. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, May 3, 1879.*

THE reply of the Sultan to Prince Nicholas' last telegram has greatly flattered and pleased His Highness, who has, in consequence, requested me to state that he accepts in principle the necessity of Montenegro being the first to seek the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Porte, and that this will be done as soon as the unfortunately important matter of the expense of a mission can be settled, and also to be a fit person as Representative can be selected.

I shall avail myself of the opportunity offered by the departure to-morrow of the Delimitation Commission for Albania to return to Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 544.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, May 10, 1879.*

THE dispute to which I had the honour of calling your Lordship's attention in my last despatch of the 5th instant seems in a fair way of being settled. Photiades Pasha held very firm language to the deputation which waited on him, and intimated to them that they must not think of intimidating him by threats into yielding to their desire for the seat of Government to be transported to Sphakia. He pointed out to the members of the deputation that, according to Article VI of the Règlement Administratif, the choice of the seat of Government rests with the Administrative Council and his Excellency, and that the question should be fairly considered and decided in a manner conformable to the general interests. The deputation returned to Sphakia to communicate the Governor's answer to the people, and disposed, I am given to understand, to recommend submission.

After endless correspondence on the subject, the Grand Vizier has at last telegraphed to the Vali that the half of the customs dues received between the 14th October and the 13th March should be appropriated for local expenses. On the Custom-house Director being called on to hand over the sum which should thus have accrued during that interval, he was forced to confess that, in accordance with previous orders received from the Porte, it had all been paid away for the use of the troops. This answer surprises no one. Being disappointed of this resource, the Governor now hopes to procure an order for the regular payment of half the current receipts of the custom-house into the local Treasury. His Excellency is anxious to proceed to Constantinople himself, in order to have an opportunity of urging on Ministers the importance of granting this and other demands of the Cretans without delay.

A stop has been put to the flight, reported in my despatch No. 38 of the 26th ultimo, of the Mussulman peasantry to this town before the evil had become serious. Photiades Pasha reports the state of matters in the eastern half of Crete as much more satisfactory than that prevailing here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 545.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 17, 1879.*

ORDERS have been issued by the Military Department of this Government for the formation of a camp at Lapénos, on the River Aspropotamos, in Western Greece, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Turkish frontier in Epirus.

The force to be assembled will be composed of 11 battalions of infantry, 2 of which will consist of "Evzones" (sharpshooters), 1 battalion of engineers, 2 squadrons of cavalry, and 4 batteries of artillery; in all, from 5,000 to 6,000 men.

I asked M. Delyanni whether the proposed camp would not have the appearance of a demonstration against the Porte. He said that was not the intention, but that the Minister of War had fixed upon the spot where the camp was to be formed, as from the abundance of wood in the district the expenses would be less than if it were established as last year, in Eastern Greece.

I have reason to believe, however, that the real object of this Government in collecting a body of troops near the frontier of Epirus is to give some satisfaction to the opposition which has for some time past been calling upon the Government to take executive steps and to "do something" in order to get possession of the accession of territory which it was proposed at Berlin should be ceded by the Porte to Greece.

It is said in some quarters that the formation of the camp is intended as a demonstration against the Albanian Mussulmans, who are alone allowed to carry arms in Epirus, and as a defence to the Christians in that province in case of an attack on them by the former.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 546.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy, in duplicate, of the Protocols, as published in the "Messager d'Athènes," of the five Conferences held at Prevesa by the Greek and Turkish Commissioners appointed to bring about a rectification of the frontier between Greece and Turkey.

I abstain from analyzing these documents, as I have in former despatches fully reported all that passed at the various meetings of the Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 546.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

Protocols of the Five Conferences held at Prevesa.

[See "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey," Part XXXVI, No. 338, p. 228.]

No. 547.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Journal de St. Petersburgh," which contains a report of the speech made by the Prince of Battenberg to the Emperor of Russia, after His Highness had received the deputation of Bulgarians who had come to Livadia to announce his election to the throne of that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 547.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May $\frac{7}{19}$, 1879.

LE "Messager Officiel" publie le télégramme suivant, en date de Livadia le 4 Mai :—

"Aujourd'hui, à 11 heures du matin, la députation Bulgare a remis au Prince Alexandre Ier l'acte de son élection au Trône princier de Bulgarie. A midi Son Altesse, à la tête de la députation, a été reçue par Sa Majesté l'Empereur, et a adressé à Sa Majesté les paroles suivantes en langue Française :

"'Après avoir reçu des représentants de la nation Bulgare l'acte de mon élection, je regarde comme le premier et le plus sacré de mes devoirs d'exprimer, à la tête de la députation Bulgare, ma reconnaissance à votre Majesté Impériale, comme au libérateur de notre patrie.'

"Les membres de la députation ont été invités aujourd'hui à la table Impériale et ont eu l'honneur d'être présentés à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice.

"La députation Bulgare se compose de Mgr. Siméon, Métropolite de Varna, de MM. Bournow, Vice-Gouverneur de Philippopoli, le Docteur Karakalovsky, Stoïlow, Président de la Cour d'Appel de Sophia, Gatchou Tsukow, propriétaire à Widdin, et d'un Musulman, Hadji-Effendi, Mollah de Schoumla.

No. 548.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 24, 1879, 2·45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 23rd instant, the whole object of our latest negotiations at Berlin was to save Zewin position. You are quite right, therefore, in firmly refusing any arrangement by which it would be compromised.

Please number your telegrams in future.

No. 549.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 24, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

HAS any change come over the Italian's views as to Greece? I have grounds for fancying the German has been working at him.

No. 550.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 24, 1879.*

THE representations which you have made to Prince Milan and to different members of His Highness' Government on behalf of the Albanian population of Kurshumlji and its neighbourhood, as recorded in your despatch No. 110 of the 7th instant, meet with my entire approbation.

I have now to instruct you to take an opportunity of representing in the proper quarter that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government Servia will incur a serious responsibility if measures are not adopted in order to permit the peaceable return to their homes of those who have been driven away by the events of the late war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 551.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 24, 1879.*

I HAVE to express to you the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learned from your despatch No. 109 of the 6th instant that some relaxation has been admitted by the Servian Government of the disabilities imposed upon the Jews belonging to the Principality, although the final sanction of the Great Skuptchina has not yet been obtained to the immunities which it is proposed to confer upon them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 552.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul St. John.

(No. 2. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 24, 1879.*

I APPROVE the language used by you to Mr. Evans, as reported in your despatch No. 12 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 553.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 301. Secret.)
Foreign Office, May 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE grounds for believing that German influence is being brought to bear upon Italy with regard to the Greek frontier question; and I should therefore wish your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain whether any change has come over the views of the Italian Government in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 554.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 34.)
Foreign Office, May 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of yesterday's date, stating the course you have taken in regard to an attempt made by the Russian Commissioners to re-establish the tracing of the frontier-line beyond Karaourgan, which had been marked on the map before you had arrived at Constantinople, and which they had subsequently undertaken to erase.

I understand from your Report that the tracing in question would seriously affect the defensive value of the Turkish position at Zewin, and I have informed you by telegraph that you are justified in firmly refusing any arrangement by which that position would be compromised. The efforts of the British Plenipotentiaries at Berlin during the latest negotiations on the Asiatic frontier were entirely directed to the retention by Turkey of this point of defence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 555.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, May 24, 1879.

I TOOK leave to-day of Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency said he did not wish Commission to remain long at Philippopolis, but to return in a few days to discuss [? reforms] under Article XXIII, which are nearly ready.

He is anxious that the financial administration should at once be handed over to Aleko Pasha. The Russians object to this. If they continue to do so, I can easily say that, as I consider the powers of the Commission exhausted, except for Article XXIII, I will take no further part in the financial administration. I should probably be followed in this by the Austrian, Italian, and Turk, if not by all the others.

No. 556.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 46. Political.)
Trebizond, May 12, 1879.

My Lord,

SÜRI PASHA, the present Governor-General of Trebizond, has displayed, since his arrival here, such energy and good-will that hopes are entertained for an amelioration in the condition of this vilayet.

One of his first cares was to ameliorate the hygienic condition of the town.

He then turned his attention to the general administration and to the collection of the arrears due to the Government, which amount to several millions of piastres, and which are now collected at the rate of 350 piastres caimés per lira.

Most of these sums are due by rich Turks, who, owing to their influence, had hitherto managed to avoid payment. He dealt with them with due severity, which, of course, excited dissatisfaction amongst them. There were noises for some time of their intending to league against him. Hitherto he has succeeded to overcome all obstacles, but I should not be astonished that, as with other well-disposed Governors, a party should form against him.

I have lately heard, from a source which I consider very trustworthy, that the opposition under one of Süri Pasha's predecessors went so far as to cause not only robberies but even murders to be perpetrated in the town, in order to throw discredit on his administration and obtain his recall. I had reported at the time that the faction in question was causing the public peace to be disturbed in the town and in the villages, but I did not know of the murders now laid to their charge.

I mention this circumstance, in order to show that so long as a Governor acts within the limits of legality he should not only be supported by the Porte, but also empowered to deal in certain cases with an extraordinary amount of severity against a few individuals who are the promoters of disorders under the different Pashas.

The poor and middle classes are very satisfied with the present turn of affairs, which promises them more equity than was hitherto distributed to them.

Süri Pasha is indefatigable, and sees by himself to everything, but it is impossible for a single man to cope with all difficulties.

The only change which has hitherto taken place for the better in the Courts of Justice is that of the Cadi. The present one is described by Süri Pasha to be an upright man, and such is the impression produced on the public since his arrival. But the Courts should be entirely recast, the more so that the present members have been in office for a longer time than usual, owing to no elections having taken place during the war.

The Pasha has informed me that with a view to reform the Courts of Justice, which he agrees are in a disgraceful condition, he has recommended this measure to the Porte, and it is to be hoped that the latter will give its approval.

There are also in the number of the officials at the Seraglio some who might be advantageously replaced by more able or honest functionaries, and the Pasha's suggestions in this respect ought also to be attended to if he be expected to arrive at a good administrative organization.

In my humble opinion, curtailing the authority of the Governors-General in the provinces does not tend to their being well administered. Their powers should, on the contrary, be extended. Corrupt Pashas assume powers for carrying out their mischievous ends, while honest ones do not dare to go beyond the limits assigned to them, which amounts to a restriction only on the latter.

The Central Government at Constantinople cannot so well judge at a distance of the wants of the vilayets. Honest and energetic Governors can do much good. They are difficult to find, it is true, but for that very reason, when one is met with, and, so far as I have been able to judge, it is the case with Süri Pasha, his hints should be attended to by the Porte without delay, more especially when on a broad estimation they show good cause for being adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 557.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 6.) *Scutari, Albania, May 13, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the hônour to inclose copies of the first four Protocols of this Commission. It has not been found practicable, as yet, to get printed copies.

It will be seen, from the 4th Protocol, that the Ottoman Commissioner has, for the time, withdrawn from taking any part in the work of demarcation.

At present, and until the Ottoman Commissioner receives further instructions from his Government, the work of the Commission is stopped, it having been decided, at the fifth séance, that no demarcation could be carried out as long as the Ottoman Commissioner abstains from taking part.

The Ottoman Commissioner states that he has not, as yet, received any such instructions as will permit him to take part in the frontier demarcation between the Scutari Lake and the sea.

It is not practicable, even if it were desirable, to commence work on the other side of the lake, the Podgoritza plain being inundated.

It appears probable that very serious delays will arise, and even that the work of the Commission may be brought to a standstill if the Commissioner of either of the interested Powers is at liberty to withdraw when an adverse decision is given.

On this point a telegram, dated 8th instant, and a despatch (No. 5) of the 10th instant, have already been sent to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 557.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocle No. 1.—Séance du 30 Avril, 1879.

AUX termes de l'Article XXVIII du Traité signé à Berlin le 13 Juillet, 1878, entre l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande Bretagne, l'Italie, la Russie, et la Turquie, la délimitation du Monténégro ayant été modifiée, une Commission Européenne, formée des Représentants des Puissances signataires, a été instituée pour fixer la position de la ligne-frontière conformément aux stipulations du dit Traité.

La dite Commission s'est réunie à Cettigné ce jourd'hui, le 30 Avril, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant Major Sabri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

Lesquels se sont réunis aujourd'hui en conférence pour vérifier leurs pouvoirs respectifs, et rechercher les mesures à prendre pour faciliter l'accomplissement de leur mission. La Commission décide à l'unanimité de faire parvenir à Son Altesse le Prince du Monténégro l'expression des sentiments de profonde reconnaissance que lui inspire le gracieux accueil dont elle est l'objet en ce moment.

Les Commissaires présentent leurs pouvoirs, qui sont trouvés en règle.

M. le Consul-Général Lippich prend ensuite la parole, et propose de conférer à M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi la présidence des travaux de la Commission. Cette proposition ayant obtenu l'assentiment unanime, M. le Comte Ceccaldi accepte la présidence en remerciant ses collègues.

Il exprime l'espoir que les opérations de la Commission ne rencontreront pas de difficultés trop sérieuses, se fondant sur l'esprit conciliant qui anime ses membres.

Sur la proposition du Président, M. le Capitaine Testa et M. Pszenny Effendi sont chargés de la rédaction des Protocoles de la Commission.

M. Lippich fait observer qu'il serait nécessaire de tracer d'avance la marche générale des travaux.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi croit qu'il conviendrait, en premier lieu, de s'entendre sur le mode de votation ; il demande si les motions doivent être adoptées à la majorité des voix, ou si l'unanimité sera nécessaire.

M. le Colonel Kaulbars informe la Commission que les instructions de son Gouvernement lui prescrivent dans les questions de principe de demander que le vote ne soit acquis qu'à l'unanimité ; quant aux questions de forme, elles peuvent été résolues à la majorité des voix.

M. le Colonel Ottolenghi insiste pour que dans le cas où l'on se prononcerait pour la majorité des voix, les droits de la minorité soient réservés.

M. le Consul-Général Lippich, en exprimant le vœu que les décisions soient prises dans le plus complet accord possible, énonce l'opinion que le vote de la majorité soit acquis comme point de départ, pour permettre la continuation des travaux de la Commission, en laissant ouvertes les réserves de la minorité.

Le Président, résumant la question, annonce qu'à la prochaine séance il mettra aux voix la motion suivante:—

"Dans les questions de principe, l'unanimité des voix sera-t-elle nécessaire, ou la majorité sera-t-elle suffisante? Dans ce dernier cas, les réserves de la majorité étant maintenues, le vote de la majorité sera-t-il acquis comme point de départ pour la continuation des travaux de la Commission?"

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi demande si la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien sera considérée comme document officiel, ayant servi de base aux délibérations du Congrès de Berlin. Il est d'avis que la carte en question est le complément nécessaire du texte du Traité, et qu'il faudrait, par conséquent, la consulter dans les cas douteux.

Pszenny Effendi demande si un Traité de Délimitation doit être exécuté selon l'esprit ou selon la lettre. Il pense qu'il faut se tenir strictement aux paroles du Traité.

Le Capitaine Sale cite, comme précédent, le fait que dans la délimitation de la frontière Serbe on s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de procéder selon l'esprit du Traité, comme l'indique le Protocole No. 2 de la Commission de Serbie.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi insiste sur sa proposition, en se référant au Protocole No. 19 du 12 Juillet, 1878, où il est dit que toutes les désignations de lieux ont été prises sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien.

Le Président déclare que, dans la prochaine séance, il mettra au voix la motion suivante:—

"La carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien (édition provisoire) sera-t-elle considérée par la Commission comme un document complémentaire des Articles du Traité de Berlin, à prendre en considération, sans s'écarter du texte de ce Traité, pour l'application des Articles au terrain?"

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi propose que la Commission ne trace pas des lignes fictives de démarcation, mais qu'elle s'appuie, autant que possible, sur des accidents topographiques bien déterminés.

Le Colonel Kaulbars voudrait qu'on tînt compte des conditions ethnographiques, religieuses, et stratégiques des localités par où passera la frontière, comme cela lui paraît résulter de l'esprit du Traité de Berlin.

Pszenny Effendi s'associe pleinement à cette opinion.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi croit que le principe technique doit primer toute autre considération; il cite à ce propos l'opinion émise par le Comte Schouvaloff à Berlin (Protocole No. 7, séance du 26 Juin, 1878) . . . "Que le Congrès, ayant cherché à effacer les frontières ethnographiques, et à les remplacer par des frontières commerciales et stratégiques, les Plénipotentiaires de Russie souhaitent d'autant plus que ces frontières ne deviennent point des barrières religieuses."

Le Commissaire Italien est d'avis que le tracé définitif devrait consister en une ligne brisée, formée par des lignes naturelles, s'approchant le plus possible du Traité de Berlin.

Il conviendrait de considérer comme lignes naturelles les accidents topographiques nettement déterminés; à défaut, les limites administratives et les voies de communications pourraient former les éléments d'une bonne délimitation.

M. le Capitaine Sale lit l'Article 5 de l'Acte, fixant les frontières Roumano-Bulgares, où il est dit:—"Qu'entre deux points d'attache le tracé de la ligne-frontière est en principe établi d'après des accidents naturels du terrain, facilement reconnaissables, et s'écartant le moins possible de la ligne droite qui joint les deux points extrêmes."

Le Président fait observer que les questions soulevées par le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi sont plutôt le détail du travail, et trouveront leur solution naturelle sur le terrain.

Les Commissaires de la Russie, de l'Autriche, et de l'Allemagne se rallient entièrement à l'avis du Président.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi demande de quelle manière la Commission se propose de mesurer les distances d'un point à l'autre.

La Commission accepte à l'unanimité l'évaluation des distances à vol d'oiseau.

Le Commissaire Italien désire savoir si le bornage matériel devra être exécuté partout, et à laquelle des parties intéressées incombrait ce travail.

Le Colonel Kaulbars pense que dans les localités exigeant un bornage matériel, ce travail devrait être exécuté autant que possible en présence de la Commission, et avec l'aide et sous la surveillance des Gouvernements limitrophes. Les Commissaires Ottomans et Monténégrin se déclarent prêts à fournir les moyens nécessaires à cet effet.

La Commission est d'ailleurs d'avis que ce bornage ne devrait être exécuté que sur les points où l'absence de tout signe matériel de reconnaissance le rendrait indispensable.

Le Président, après avoir consulté ses collègues, expose la nécessité de fixer l'itinéraire de la Commission.

Après une courte délibération, la Commission décide qu'on procédera à l'étude préalable de la côte du Lac de Scutari et du terrain situé entre celui-ci et la mer.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi demande si la sûreté de la Commission pourra être garantie pendant les opérations; il désirerait pour la prochaine séance un tableau indiquant la dislocation des troupes Ottomanes et Monténégrines sur le territoire situé entre le Lac de Scutari et la mer.

Son Excellence Veli Riza Pacha ne saurait donner dans un si bref délai les détails demandés.

Le Commissaire du Monténégro pense que son Gouvernement pourrait garantir la sécurité de la Commission sur le terrain en question, mais qu'une entente directe avec le Gouvernement Ottoman serait nécessaire.

Son Excellence Veli Riza Pacha déclare qu'il ne peut se prononcer dans cette question avant qu'ait été rendue la décision de la Commission sur la valeur, comme document officiel, de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien pour l'interprétation du Traité de Berlin.

Le Colonel Kaulbars rappelle que pendant la délimitation de la Serbie, la Commission était accompagnée de plusieurs bataillons et de quelques canons.

Le Président, demande aux Commissaires Ottomans quelle est la situation administrative et militaire de Plawa et de Goussinjé.

Riza Pacha répond que ces localités ont été entièrement évacuées par les autorités administratives ainsi que par les troupes Ottomanes, et que les canons et les munitions en ont également retirés.

Le Président demande à M. Simo Popovic quelle est la situation du Gouvernement Monténégrin vis-à-vis le district de Plawa et de Goussinjé.

Le Commissaire de Monténégro déclare que, malgré plusieurs tentatives, la situation de ces districts est la même qu'avant le Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte n'en ayant pas fait remise officielle au Gouvernement Monténégrin.

Riza Pacha est d'avis que l'abandon pur et simple équivaut à la remise officielle de ces localités, qui du reste n'est pas mentionnée dans le Traité de Berlin.

Le Colonel Ottolenghi cite à ce propos l'Article 6 du Protocole de Vir-Bazar du 21 Janvier, 1879, d'après lequel une entente entre les deux Gouvernements aurait dû avoir lieu au sujet de Plawa et de Goussinjé.

Le Président, interprétant le vœu de la Commission, engage vivement les Commissaires Ottomans et Monténégrin à solliciter de leurs Gouvernements respectifs une entente au sujet de la remise officielle de Plawa et de Goussinjé. L'entente en question étant de la plus haute importance pour l'avenir des opérations de la Commission, le Président espère qu'elle aura lieu dans le plus bref délai.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 1er Mai:—

1. La question du mode de votation.
2. La question du principe relatif à la valeur de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien pour l'interprétation du Traité de Berlin.

La séance est levée à midi.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVICH.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 557.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation de Monténégro.

Protocole No. 2—*Séance du 1er Mai*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant Major Tahri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures et demie.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente, lu par le Président, est adopté.

Le Président propose de passer à l'ordre du jour, et donne lecture de la première question, ainsi conçue:—

"Dans les questions de principe, l'unanimité des voix sera-t-elle nécessaire, ou la majorité sera-t-elle suffisante? Dans ce dernier cas, les réserves de la minorité étant maintenues, le vote de la majorité sera-t-il acquis comme point de départ pour la continuation des travaux de la Commission?"

M. Lippich demande ce que la Commission entend par les mots "question de principe?"

Bedri Bey pose la même question.

Le Président prie le Colonel Kaulbars de préciser ce qu'il entend par les mots "question de principe."

M. le Colonel Kaulbars considère comme question de principe toute question d'intérêt capital, et cite comme exemple Gorica Topal.

Le Président, constatant que la Commission n'a pas d'autre observation à présenter, met aux voix le premier paragraphe de la question.

Les Commissaires de Turquie, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de France votent contre l'unanimité.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de Russie, et de Monténégro votent pour l'unanimité des voix.

Sur quoi le *Président* déclare que dans les questions de principe l'unanimité des voix ne sera pas nécessaire.

Le second paragraphe, mis aux voix, est adopté à l'unanimité dans le sens affirmatif.

Le Président déclare que les réserves de la minorité étant maintenues, le vote de la majorité sera acquis comme point de départ pour la continuation des travaux de la Commission.

Le Président donne lecture de la seconde question relative à la valeur de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien pour l'interprétation du Traité de Berlin, et demande si la Commission a quelque observation à présenter.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi reconnait que la question est d'une importance capitale, et qu'elle peut être la source de grandes difficultés. On ne peut nier que la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien n'ait servi de guide aux travaux du Congrès. Malgré les erreurs qu'elle contient, elle exprime l'intention de la Haute Assemblée.

Le Commissaire Italien cite à ce propos le Protocole No. 19 du 12 Juillet, 1878, où il est dit:—

"Que toutes les désignations de lieux ont été prises sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien. Son Altesse le Prince de Hohenlohe dit que cette annotation ne pourrait figurer au Traité, mais cette explication étant très-importante, il est d'avis qu'il en soit fait mention au Protocole."

Le Capitaine Sale pense que la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien n'a de valeur qu'en se référant aux Articles du Traité de Berlin. La Commission devrait s'en tenir au texte même de ce Traité.

M. Lippich est d'avis que, dans l'exécution de son mandat, la Commission devrait prendre comme règle de conduite le texte du Traité de Berlin (Article XXVIII), ainsi que la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, qui a servi de base aux délibérations du Congrès. Malgré son caractère officiel, cette carte peut contenir des erreurs, attendu qu'elle n'est pas toujours le résultat d'études complètes, mais en grande partie de simples reconnaissances.

Le Colonel Kaulbars expose que la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien est un document complémentaire du Traité de Berlin, et doit être prise en considération dans tous les cas où il s'agit d'expliquer le texte et l'esprit du Traité.

Le Délégué du Monténégro exprime un sentiment analogue à ses collègues d'Italie et de Russie.

Le Président considère la carte comme un document complémentaire du Traité de Berlin, ce qui lui donne à ses yeux une valeur dont il ne peut s'empêcher de tenir le plus grand compte. C'est la déclaration faite par Son Altesse le Prince de Hohenlohe dans la séance du 12 Juillet, 1878 (No. 19), et adoptée par le Congrès.

Le Capitaine Sale demande de quelle édition de la Carte Autrichienne la Commission entend parler?

La Commission constate que l'édition "provisoire" de la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien a été employé par le Congrès de Berlin.

Bedri Bey déclare, au nom de Son Excellence Riza Pacha, que les Commissaires Ottomans reconnaissent le texte du Traité comme seul document officiel, et repoussent la carte, qui n'est pas toujours comparable au terrain. La modification du dit texte dépasserait les pouvoirs de la Commission.

Les Commissaires Ottomans proposent, par conséquent, de tracer la nouvelle frontière suivant une ligne déterminée par les noms mentionnés dans le texte du Traité. Tout autre procédé serait d'une application difficile, et créerait à la Commission des difficultés insurmontables par suite de l'attitude des populations.

Pszenny Effendi constate que la Commission doit décider entre la valeur de deux documents. D'un est un Traité solennellement signé et ratifié, dont l'importance est immense, dont les termes ont été longuement et minutieusement discutés, et dans lequel aucune erreur ne saurait exister. L'autre est une carte, résultant d'une étude superficielle du terrain, n'ayant par conséquent qu'une valeur relative.

Pszenny Effendi espère qu'en présence de ces deux documents la Commission choisira le premier, et s'en tiendra strictement au texte du Traité de Berlin.

Aucune observation n'étant faite, le *Président* procède au vote de la seconde question:—

"La Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien (édition provisoire) sera-t-elle considérée par la Commission comme un document complémentaire des Articles du Traité de Berlin, à prendre en considération, sans écarter du texte de ce Traité, pour l'application des Articles au terrain?"

A l'exception du Commissaire Ottoman, la Commission vote la question dans le sens affirmatif.

Le Président demande au Commissaire Ottoman si, conformément au désir exprimé par la Commission, dans la première séance, il est en mesure de garantir la sécurité de la Commission pendant les opérations.

Veli Riza Pacha répond qu'il s'adressera au Commandant-en-chef des troupes à Scutari, que les ordres nécessaires soient donnés.

Le Colonel Baron Kaulbars déclare, au nom du Commissaire Monténégrin, qu'un bataillon sera à la disposition de la Commission en temps et lieu.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi voudrait fixer l'itinéraire de la Commission.

Le Président, résumant la discussion sur ce sujet, déclare que la Commission, ayant encore l'intention de tenir une séance à Cettigné, partira Dimanche, 4 Mai, pour Scutari, afin de compléter son matériel, et commencer les opérations dans les environs du Lac de Scutari.

Le Colonel Kaulbars croit utile que la Commission informe, par écrit, les Gouvernements Ottoman et Monténégrin au point où elle compte commencer ses opérations sur le terrain situé entre le Lac de Scutari et la mer.

La Commission décide que la formation de ce point sera mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au surlendemain, 3 Mai.

La séance est levée à midi et demi.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 557.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 3.—*Séance du* 3 *Mai*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant Major Tahri Bey,
M. Pszemy Effendi.

LE Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président passe à l'ordre du jour, et donne lecture de la proposition du Baron Kaulbars de fixer le point où débarquera la Commission.

Le Baron Kaulbars est d'avis de commencer par Gorica Topal.

Le Capitaine Sale demande que l'identité de l'îlot de Gorica Topal soit constatée dans le Traité de Berlin, où il est dit, "Que la nouvelle frontière traverse le lac près de l'îlot de Gorica Topal."

Le Président demande si la distante entre les îlots qui forme ce groupe est assez considérable pour exiger la constation de l'un d'eux ?

M. Popovic déclare que l'îlot en question est très-marqué ; deux petites roches voisines portent des noms qu'il ignore, mais que les habitants connaissent.

M. Lippich propose de se rendre à Zogay et de débarquer entre ce point et le premier poste Monténégrin, situé au nord-ouest de Zogay.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin observe que depuis l'évacuation de ce terrain, la ligne des avant-postes Monténégrins aboutit près de Gorica Topal.

Riza Pacha déclare que dans la Convention du Vir-Bazar, les Délégués Ottomans ont protesté contre l'adoption de cette ligne.

Le Président observe que la valeur et la discussion de cette protestation n'entrent pas dans le cadre des travaux de la Commission.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne se rallie à cette opinion.

Le Capitaine Sale accepte le point de débarquement, tout en se réservant de constater l'identité de Gorica Topal.

Le Président ne croit pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'indiquer aux Gouvernements limitrophes les points précis où la sécurité de la Commission devrait être assurée. On se bornera à leur faire connaître par lettre le point de débarquement, en les priant de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour cette sécurité.

La rédaction de ces lettres est arrêtée séance tenante.*

La question suivante, mise aux voix, est adoptée à l'unanimité :—

"La Commission est-elle d'avis, qu'après avoir complété son organisation matérielle à Scutari, elle continuera les travaux en débarquant sur la côte occidentale du lac, entre Gogay et le premier port Monténégrin, au nord-ouest de ce point ?"

Sur la proposition de *M. le Consul-Général Lippich*, la Commission émet le vœu que le Gouvernement Ottoman Monténégrin veuille bien, pendant la durée des travaux, établir des moyens de communication postale, chacun à ce qui le concerne, d'une part entre la Commission et Scutari, d'autre part entre la Commission et Cettigné.

La séance est levée à midi et demi.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

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* Voir Annexe No. 1 au présent Protocole : lettre au Gouverneur-Général à Scutari et au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à Cettigné.

Inclosure 4 in No. 557.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 4.—Séance du 8 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant Major Tabri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LE *Président* donne lecture du Protocole de la séance précédente, qui est approuvé.

En réponse à une note présentée à la Commission par le Capitaine Sale,* pendant la reconnaissance faite le 7 Mai sur la côte occidentale du Lac de Scutari, *Riza Pacha* prie le Président de donner lecture de la déclaration suivante :—

"Le Capitaine Sale ayant demandé que le Commissaire Ottoman présente un exposé formel de son objection sur l'exactitude de la nomenclature du groupe d'îles désigné sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien sous le nom de Gorica Topal, et mentionné dans le Traité de Berlin, le Commissaire Ottoman a l'honneur d'exposer ce qui suit: Le groupe nommé sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien Gorica Topal, ne porte pas en réalité ce nom, comme la Commission a pu facilement le constater par une enquête sur les lieux. L'île qui porte effectivement le nom de Gorica Topal, se trouve à environ 13 kilomètres plus au nord-ouest du groupe déjà mentionné, et vis-à-vis de Sistan.

"Devant ce fait le Commissaire Ottoman est d'avis :—

"1. Que, conformément au texte du Traité de Berlin, la ligne-frontière, partant de Plavnica, vienne se rattacher à l'île qui se nomme véritablement Gorica Topal, et qui est mentionnée dans le Traité de Berlin. Il est bien entendu que la Commission devra s'assurer de l'identité de l'île en question en interrogeant les populations des localités environnantes.

"2. Que le principe consacré par cette décision soit reconnu définitivement comme règle par la Commission, et que l'identité de tous les points mentionnés dans le Traité soit établie en cas de doute, non par l'examen exclusif de la carte, mais en interrogeant les populations sur le véritable nom des localités.

"Les Commissaires Ottomans fondent leur opinion sur les raisons qu'ils ont énoncé dans les deux premières séances de la Commission, auxquelles vient d'ajouter une puissante raison stratégique : La ville de Scutari se trouve environ à 15 kilomètres du prétendu Gorica Topal ; par la disposition des bas-fonds, tout navire entrant ou sortant doit passer à moins de 4 kilomètres de cet îlot; c'est-à-dire, à bonne portée de canon.

* Voir Annexe No. 1 au présent Protocole.

En faisant passer la frontière le prétendu Gorica Topal et les sommets de la crête, l'existence de la ville de Scutari comme chef-lieu et principal dépôt militaire se trouverait grandement compromise, ce qui évidemment n'était pas dans l'intention du Congrès de Berlin."

Avant d'entrer en discussion, le *Président* demande à son Excellence Riza Pacha s'il a reçu une réponse de son Gouvernement touchant la question du district de Plava-Goussinjé.

Riza Pacha ayant déclaré n'avoir encore reçu aucune réponse,

Le Président l'invite, au nom de la Commission, à solliciter de son Gouvernement les renseignements désirés.

Personne n'ayant demandé la parole au sujet de la déclaration qui vient d'être lue, *le Président* pose à la Commission la question suivante :—

"La Commission se juge-t-elle munie de preuves suffisantes pour prononcer une opinion décisive sur la question d'identité de Gorica Topal?"

Le Baron Kaulbars demande quelle serait la conséquence de l'établissement de l'identité de l'île en question.

Le Président dit que la conséquence en serait un changement de tracé.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha déclare que dans sa pensée l'adoption, comme étant Gorica Topal, d'un îlot situé à 13 kilomètres nord-ouest du groupe d'îlots, mentionné sous le même nom, sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, aurait pour conséquence de rattacher à cet îlot la ligne-frontière partant de Plavnica.

Le Baron Kaulbars déclare ne pouvoir accepter le tracé proposé par le Commissaire Ottoman, qui se dirigerait de Plavnica sur l'îlot nommé Gorica Topal, près de Gorica Plak, presqu'en face de Sistan, pour les raisons suivantes :—

1. Le tracé ne correspond nullement à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin.

2. La position avancée des Turcs dans le Craïna (rive occidentale du Lac de Scutari) mettrait en question et en danger le littoral Monténégrin d'Antivari.

En conséquence, il demande que le tracé soit dirigé sur l'îlot Gorica Topal de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien.

Avant de consulter la Commission sur la question d'identité de Gorica Topal, *le Président* croit nécessaire de constater les résultats de l'enquête faite pendant la reconnaissance du 7 Mai, et demande aux Commissaires si les renseignements recueillis leur paraissent suffisants.

Le Baron Kaulbars est d'avis que les preuves réunies sont suffisantes.

Le Capitaine Sale demande si le Commissaire Ottoman peut présenter des preuves écrites relatives à la question.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha répond qu'il ne saurait produire d'autres preuves que celles résultant des déclarations des riverains. Il ajoute que l'île nommée selon lui Grica Topal, était autrefois le vacouf d'une mosquée, et ignore qu'il y a quelque pièce qui mentionne son nom, ce dont il pourra s'informer.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi prie le Président d'exposer les résultats de l'enquête.

Le Président rappelle que la Commission a embarqué à Siroka, Zogay, Skla, et Kurian des indigènes qui ont été admis, sur la nomenclature des îlots en vue.

Il est résulté de cet interrogatoire que l'îlot le plus accentué du groupe est désigné sous le nom de "Top Halva," par les habitants de Siroka, et sous le nom de "Planik," par les habitants de Zogay et de Kurian.

En présence de ces dénominations contradictoires il est difficile de déterminer avec précision les noms de ces îlots.

Un habitant de Zogay a déclaré connaître une île nommée Gorica Topal, située vers le nord du lac.

Le Baron Kaulbars ajoute qu'il a personnellement interrogé des gens de Siroka qui ont donné à l'îlot en question le nom de Top Halva est de Planik. Les hommes de Murica nomment l'îlot "Gorica Topal" ou "Planik."

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi se référant aux déclarations faites par lui à différentes reprises, à savoir, qu'il y a identité entre le mot du Traité, le mot de la carte, et le tracé de la carte annexée au Traité de Berlin, est d'avis que la frontière doit se rattacher sans aucun doute au groupe d'îles nommé "Gorica Topal" sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien.

Le Baron Kaulbars et le *Capitaine Sauerwald* adhèrent entièrement à cette opinion.

Le premier ajoute que la Russie n'aurait jamais consenti à faire passer la frontière près de Sistan.

M. Lippich fait observer que le tracé de la carte est conforme à la ligne de la carte adoptée lors de l'armistice Turco-Monténégrin.

Le Président lit l'Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 8 du Traité de Berlin, où il est question de cette ligne.

M. Lippich en appréciant toute la valeur des objections du Commissaire Ottoman, ne peut accepter d'autre que celui de la carte.

Le Capitaine Sale croit que la Commission peut affirmer que l'île désigné sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien comme Gorica Topal, est réellement le point par où le Congrès a voulu faire passer la ligne de démarcation. S'il en était autrement, le Délégué Militaire Ottoman aurait présenté une objection au Congrès.

Les Commissaires Monténégrins appuient cette observation.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha déclare que les Commissaires Ottomans ne sauraient s'écarter du texte du Traité de Berlin, qu'ils entendent appliquer aux noms que les localités portent réellement sur le terrain.

Le Commissaire de France fait observer que s'il eût été dans l'intention du Congrès de faire passer la frontière par un îlot situé à la position indiquée par les Commissaires Ottomans, il est inadmissible que des points aussi importants que ceux de Sistan, Murice, Livari, &c., n'aient pas été cités avec la plus grande précision.

La discussion étant close, *le Président* met aux voix la question suivante :—

"La Commission est-elle d'avis que le point d'attache de la ligne de démarcation de la nouvelle frontière sur la rive occidentale du Lac de Scutari, doit être pris au point où se trouve sur la Carte Autrichienne le groupe d'îlots qu'elle désigne sous le nom de Gorica Topal?"

La Commission répond dans le sens affirmatif, à la majorité de 7 voix contre 1 (celle de M. le Commissaire Ottoman).

Pszenny Effendi, au nom de son Excellence Riza Pacha, déclare que, devant le vote émis par la Commission, et en présence des instructions données par leur Gouvernement, les Commissaires Ottomans ne peuvent ultérieurement prendre part aux travaux techniques de la délimitation du terrain entre la côte occidentale du Lac de Scutari et la mer, jusqu'à ce qu'ils ne reçoivent d'autres instructions.

Le Commissaire d'Italie est d'avis que les travaux techniques ne peuvent s'interrompre malgré cette déclaration.

M. Lippich regrette que M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman ait déclaré ne pas vouloir prendre part aux travaux techniques de la Commission, en tant qu'ils se rattachent au point de départ accepté par la majorité. Il fait remarquer que, si sur une question de principe et de fond, et il y aurait une minorité, le cas a été prévu, et que dans la séance du 1er Mai, il a été décidé que cela n'empêcherait pas la continuation des travaux ; or, M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman a voté dans ce sens.

Le Commissaire Austro-Hongrois est donc d'avis que MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, à la suite de la dite décision prise à l'unanimité par la Commission, ne peuvent pas se refuser de prendre part aux travaux techniques, à partir de n'importe quel point accepté par la majorité, et que par leur vote même ils sont tenus de ne pas se séparer de leurs collègues.

Pszenny Effendi fait observer que les Commissaires Ottomans ne s'écartent pas du vote qu'ils ont émis dans la séance du 1er Mai, en proposant à la Commission de commencer les travaux par un autre point de la frontière, qui n'offrirait pas de difficultés.

Le Président résume la discussion en disant que d'après l'avis de tous les autres membres, MM. les Commissaires Ottomans sont virtuellement tenus par leur vote précédent de continuer à s'associer (leurs réserves faites) aux travaux de la Commission.

M. le Capitaine Testa demande à quelle époque les Commissaires Ottomans pourront recevoir des instructions ultérieures.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha pense qu'un délai de quarante-huit heures suffira pour recevoir des ordres de son Gouvernement.

Le Baron Kaulbars désirerait que les Commissaires Ottomans présentassent un contre-projet, indiqué sur la carte dans ses traits principaux, lequel pourrait être communiqué dès maintenant aux Gouvernements respectifs, et leur permettrait de se rendre un compte plus exact de la question.

Bedri Bey présente un croquis dans lequel la nouvelle frontière est tracée selon le principe posé par les Commissaires Ottomans.

La Commission passe à l'étude de l'endroit précis du groupe de Gorica Topal par lequel passera la nouvelle frontière.

Les Délégués Ottomans s'abstiennent de prendre part à cette discussion.

Le Capitaine Sale fait observer que les îles du groupe en question ne sont utiles

entre les mains du Monténégro que pour gêner la navigation du lac, et qu'en conséquence ces îlots doivent rester à la Turquie.

Le Commissaire de France pense que la navigation du lac ne pourrait être gênée par l'îlot de Top Halva même, mais par les hauteurs des positions environnantes.

Après une discussion générale sur la détermination précise du passage de la ligne frontière près de Gorica Topal, le *Capitaine Testa* propose d'ajourner le vote sur cette question jusqu'à la prochaine séance.

Les Commissaires, sauf ceux de la Russie et du Monténégro, adhèrent à la proposition du Commissaire Allemand, et renvoient la votation à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à Samedi, 10 Mai, à 8 heures et demie du soir.

Les Commissaires Ottomans s'abstiennent de voter.

Le Président propose à titre de disposition réglementaire un instrument diplomatique, avec croquis annexés, au fur et à mesure qu'un point sera acquis relativement au tracé de la ligne de démarcation.

Cette proposition est ajournée par la Commission à une des séances suivantes.

La séance est levée à midi et quart.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 557.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 4.

JE suis d'avis qu'il est très-désirable que la Commission commence son travail actuel sur les lieux par émettre son opinion sur l'identité du groupe d'îles, désigné dans la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien sous le nom de "Gorica Topal" avec le Gorica Topal mentionné dans le texte du Traité de Berlin.

Je propose donc :—

1. Que M. le Commissaire Ottoman soit invité immédiatement à présenter un exposé formel de son objection sur l'exactitude de la nomenclature des îles en question, donnée dans la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien.

2. Que la Commission, après avoir visité la localité et s'étant munie de toutes preuves qu'elle puisse juger nécessaires, prononce une opinion décisive sur la question d'identité.

3. Si l'exactitude de nomenclature de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien est admise, je proposerais qu'ensuite la Commission décide quelle île particulière du groupe sera considérée comme étant la Gorica Topal mentionnée dans le texte du Traité, afin d'avoir une base pour la signification de ces mots :—"De là, la nouvelle frontière raverse le lac près de l'îlot de Gorica Topal, et à partir de Gorica Topal," &c. &c.

Je crois qu'il est judicieux de déterminer ces points nettement et définitivement, même au risque de quelque délai, avant de procéder à aucune démarcation ultérieure, afin que, le travail de la Commission étant terminé, on ne puisse pas dire qu'une objection sur un point important, présentée par une des Puissances intéressées, n'ait pas été l'objet d'un examen sérieux et suffisant.

(Signé) M. T. SALE.

Le 7 Mai, 1879.

No. 558.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter which I have addressed to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Porte, after an interview with Carathéodory Pasha, with reference to the

Project of Frontier submitted by the Russo-Turkish Commission to their respective Governments.

I have prepared a second Memorandum, with detailed arguments, supporting my assertions with regard to the one-sided trace of the frontier, and I shall send this to-morrow to his Excellency for transmission to the Porte.

I think my interview has been productive of some good, inasmuch as the President of the Commission, Nedjib Pasha, told the Russian Delegates in my presence to-day that the Turkish Government had returned the Project of Frontier for further consideration, and that he intended, in consequence, proposing some modifications. I also noticed that the position of the Turkish Commissioner, Shehab Bey, at the séance which followed, was much improved, as his opinion was asked for, whereas, hitherto, he had been a mere cypher.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 558.

Major Clarke to Sir A. H. Layard.

Pera, May 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I had an interview with Carathéodory Pasha this morning with reference to the subject upon which I sought your Excellency's advice yesterday, viz., the virtual rejection of my Memorandum on the Project of Frontier (between the Black Sea and Kara-Ourgan) submitted by the Boundary Commission to their respective Governments.

He read to me the letter of the three Turkish Pashas addressed to the Minister of War, and forwarded by the latter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This letter did not bear the signature of the proper Turkish Commissioner, a circumstance which I pointed out to Carathéodory Pasha; and I further told him that Shehab Bey, the Commissioner in question, entirely agreed with me, and that was the reason why the Pashas had not consulted him when drawing up their reply. I moreover pointed out that some of the questions brought forward in my Memorandum were not touched upon.

He ultimately said that as a decision on the matter might evoke reclamations on the part of Russia, he should prefer that the responsibility of a decision be shared by others, and that, therefore, he proposed to refer the subject at issue to a Council of Ministers.

In this event I should be prepared, with your Excellency's sanction, to draw out a fuller Memorandum than the first, with the arguments more in detail.

At the same time, judging from the general look of affairs, and from the way in which their Commissioner has been treated, his opinions having throughout been completely ignored, I fear that, whoever the deciding body may be, we shall find the decision of the three Pashas upheld, and, in all probability, Shehab Bey, whom I believe to be an honest man, removed from the Commission. The three Pashas, unwilling to stultify themselves by admitting that their interpretation of the Treaty was a wrong one, naturally support one another, although only one, Ali Nizami Pasha, is really responsible for the trace of the frontier, the other two having played an entirely subordinate part.

I took the opportunity to emphasize to Carathéodory Pasha the importance attached by Her Majesty's Government to the frontier being delimitated in accordance with the strict letter of the Treaty of Berlin, and also reminded him that on more than one occasion the Porte had, of its own motion, expressed itself desirous of having the benefit of the advice of the British Commissioner with reference to that portion of the frontier between the Black Sea and Kara-Ourgan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

P.S.—Colonel Weregnine called on me to-day, and said that he had been deputed to serve on the Boundary Commission during the absence, through illness, of General Stebnitzky, the Russian Boundary Commissioner.

F. C. H. C.

No. 559.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 181.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 15, 1879.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 98 of last night, I called at the Foreign Department, and inquired of Baron Jomini what had become of Osman Agha since his sentence of exile to Siberia had been graciously commuted by the Emperor, and I also begged him to be so good as to tell me into what minor punishment that sentence had been commuted.

Baron Jomini caused the papers concerning this matter to be brought, and very kindly read me a telegram dated the $\frac{19th}{31st}$ of last March from the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, which reported that General Stolipine, in virtue of the Imperial Order that Osman Agha should under no circumstances be transported to Siberia, and that some minor punishment only should be inflicted, had commuted his sentence into simple imprisonment for three months, including the period which he had already spent in prison, and that at the expiration of that term he should be expelled by administrative process from the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

Baron Jomini added that as considerably more than three months had elapsed since the arrest of Osman Agha, he presumed the latter must long ago have been set free and expelled from the province; but he promised to telegraph at once to Prince Lobanoff to report the date upon which he had been set free, and, if possible, to add the name of the place where the man is at present residing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 560.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 15, 1879.

BARON JOMINI informed me to-day that Namyk Pasha, who had been selected by the Sultan to proceed to Livadia to thank His Majesty for the mission to Constantinople of General Obrutscheff, would not arrive there for some days. His departure from Constantinople had been delayed in order that his arrival should not clash at Livadia with the deputation which were to offer the Bulgarian Crown to the Prince Alexander of Battenberg.

From the manner in which Baron Jomini spoke of Namyk Pasha, I gather that the Sultan's selection is not what the Russian Government would have desired, but that he is to have attached to him some other Turkish official of what, the Baron describes, as more "enlightened views," with whom it will be easier for M. de Giers to treat.

Baron Jomini then went on to say that both the Austrian and Italian Governments have expressed the opinion that the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia should be completed by the 3rd July, but it is impossible for the Russian Government to make any positive engagement to this effect, although the evacuation is being now carried out, and will probably be completed by that time.

It might, however, be found necessary at the last moment to leave three or four Russian regiments behind till the 3rd August, in order to ensure the maintenance of order up to that period.

I said that nothing would tend more to strengthen the growing confidence of a good understanding between our two Governments than the palpable fact of the prompt withdrawal of the Russian troops, and that, as there was no material difficulty about removing them in a much shorter period than the three months, it seemed to me most injudicious of the Imperial Government for the sake of a few weeks to run the risk of awakening suspicions by delaying their departure to the utmost limit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 561.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 185. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 16, 1879.

I HAVE frequent occasion to meet General Annenkoff, the Director-General of the movement of Military Trains.

He has just explained to me privately that he is much engaged at the present moment, as his instructions are to make his arrangements in such a manner as to ensure that all the army of occupation now beyond the Danube shall have re-crossed the Rusian frontier by the $\frac{13}{17}$th of next month.

General Annenkoff assured me that the movements of evacuation had already commenced; and he added that, as far as his Department was concerned, he should be able to have all the troops home across the frontier within the time above specified.

He repeated to me that these were his present instructions, but of course they might be altered between this and then if it were considered necessary. He insisted, however, that he had no reason to expect a change in his instructions, for he was convinced the Government was now really anxious to withdraw the army as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 562.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 194.)
My Lord, *St Petersburgh, May* 19, 1879.

I ENQUIRED this afternoon of Baron Jomini what answer he had received from Prince Labanoff to the telegram which, as reported in my despatch No. 181 of the 15th instant, had been sent inquiring what had become of Osman Agha.

He replied that some mistake must have been made in the telegram sent to Prince Labanoff, for the Prince had only repeated what he had stated on the 10th/22nd March, viz., that the sentence had been commuted into three months' imprisonment, including the period which had already passed since his arrest, and that then he should be expelled from Eastern Roumelia. Baron Jomini added that, as Osman Agha was arrested in December or thereabouts, of course he had been released long ago.

I replied that I was extremely sorry to hear that Prince Labanoff appeared to have misunderstood the inquiry which had been made, and I begged earnestly to impress upon Baron Jomini the necessity of at once telegraphing to Prince Labanoff to explain exactly when Osman Agha had been set at liberty, and, if possible, what had since become of him.

As Baron Jomini seemed disinclined to telegraph again in this matter, I said I really must beg him most earnestly to do so without delay. Evil tongues might assert that, in spite of the Emperor's gracious order, Osman Agha was still detained in prison, and the only way of proving the falsehood of such an assertion was by giving the date on which he had been released and the name of the place whence he had been expelled from Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 563.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 20, 1879.

I CALLED at the Foreign Department yesterday, and spoke to Baron Jomini in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 304 of the 14th instant.

Baron Jomini said that he had no doubt whatever that the Russian Government would take the same view of the question of principle as that entertained by Her Majesty's Government. It would evidently be unjust to exclude from the benefits of freedom of conscience, which, as Turkish subjects, they would have enjoyed under the Treaty of Berlin, the inhabitants of such parts of Epirus or Thessaly which may hereafter be transferred to Greece under the proposed mediation of the Six Powers.

With regard, however, to the instances which I had quoted to him, as given in your Lordship's despatch, he observed that the exclusion of Orthodox children from schools of other denominations would not seem to him to be in violation of the LXIInd Article, or even of the spirit of any Article, of the Treaty of Berlin.

That Treaty had secured to the inhabitants of the Turkish Empire, as well as to those of the provinces already detached from it, liberty to practise their religion as they wished, and had abolished religious disabilities; but it did not give the "right of propaganda," which he maintained to be in no way included in the general term of "freedom of conscience."

Baron Jomini said that, not knowing exactly what the Greek Law is, he would not express any opinion as to what might, or might not, be required to ensure to the people about to be transferred to Greece the same religious liberty which they would have enjoyed as Turkish subjects in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin; but that, while Russia would certainly be willing to do what she could to ensure to them "liberty of conscience," she could not undertake to force on the Greek or on any other Government the necessity of admitting "propaganda."

I pointed out that there could not be said to be liberty of conscience if a whole school, belonging to some other religion, should be forced to accept Orthodox teaching merely because one Orthodox child might attend the classes; as a matter of fact, in the case I had cited, this order of the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs had necessitated the closing of a Protestant school at Athens which had up to that time being largely attended.

Baron Jomini declined to discuss the particular case I had cited; adding that, without reference to Livadia, and also to the Russian Minister at Athens, Prince Gortchacow would be unable to give any more decided answer than the one which he himself had now given me.

He suggested that I should write a note on the subject.

I have, however, not thought it necessary to do so. Your Lordship only instructed me to speak in a certain sense; and secondly, it is evident that, while the Russian Government will be prepared to make conditions as to the enjoyment of liberty of conscience by the inhabitants of countries to be transferred to Greece, their appreciation of what is secured by this engagement differs materially from what we understand by the same words.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 564.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 21, 1879.

YOUR Lordship is aware that, in order to prevent their country from being overrun with destitute Israelites, more especially in view of the approaching change in Roumanian legislation, the Roumanian Government thought it advisable to check the immigration of the Israelites, who were flocking in from the Russian provinces, by issuing a Regulation that none should be admitted who could not show that they were possessed of sufficient means of subsistence.

I have now the honour to inclose an extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," showing that the Russian Government have retaliated by issuing a similar order as regards Roumanian Jews desiring to enter this Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 564.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May $\frac{4}{16}$, 1879.

LE Comité des Ministres a pris connaissance d'un Rapport du Ministre de l'Intérieur, en date du 27 Février, demandant que les Israélites Roumains dépourvus de moyens d'existence ne soient pas autorisés à entrer dans l'Empire.

Cette mesure ayant été projetée par suite d'une communication du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, qui la reconnait nécessaire à cause de la disposition prise par le Gouvernement Roumain, de défendre l'entrée en Roumanie aux Israélites de Russie qui n'ont pas de moyens d'existence, le Comité est d'avis qu'il y a lieu d'approuver la proposition du Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur a donné le 23 Mars, 1879, son approbation à la décision prise par le Comité des Minstres.

No. 565.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 17, 1879.*

I YESTERDAY had a conversation with Aleko Pasha, who proposes to proceed to Philippopolis in about ten days.

The translation of the Statute has been completed within the last few days, and the Iradé, together with the Firman of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General, is now waiting the signature of the Sultan.

I have the honour to inclose copies of the "Maritza," containing the account of an interview with Aleko Pasha, in which his Excellency has expressed his views and intentions as to the future government of the province.

Your Lordship will perceive that the writer designates Aleko Pasha as Prince Alexandre Bogoridi.

His Excellency told me yesterday that he would not appoint any but Bulgarians to office in the first instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 566.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from the "Levant Herald," giving an account of the opening of a new bridge over the Maritza, at Philippopolis, which has received the name of the Pont Stolipine.

This bridge has been built at the expense of the province out of what has been designated as the "Reserved Chest."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 567.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 17, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship will, I hope, forgive me once more recurring to Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

The Ministers here have informed me more than once of their intention to extend to the other European provinces the provisions of the Statute of Eastern Roumelia;

but, up to the present, no step has been taken to submit either this or any other proposal to the local Commissions to be created under the same Article.

The question is becoming very pressing, as the time is probably drawing near when the Commission will be dissolved.

Inquiries will certainly be made by the Russian and other Commissioners, and the answer will as certainly prove that no attempt has been made to remedy the administration of the other European provinces in conformity with this stipulation of the Treaty.

I have not failed, in my conversations with those in power at this capital, to press on them the urgency of the question.

I have mentioned it more than once to Sir Henry Layard, as it appears to me one which it is not only undesirable, but dangerous, to leave open.

During the agitation which was carried on at Philippopolis against the Commission, one of the most frequent charges was our neglect of the neighbouring provinces. I am aware that it was unmerited, as, in this matter, we had no initiative. But, however unfounded, the accusation was plausible, and certainly an arm of considerable efficiency in Russian hands.

Now that the Statute has been passed, that a Governor has been appointed, and that there seems some chance of a pacific and pacifying termination to our work, your Lordship will, I am convinced, see the necessity of not leaving the neighbouring populations with a grievance far more fruitful and serious than many which have served the purpose of Panslavist agitators, and led to the gravest complications.

I think it a pity that the Cretan Constitution was not submitted to the Commission. This question, however, has passed. Crete has no frontiers; and the Russians, at all events for the present, are indifferent to the claims and interests of Greece.

But in the Continental possessions of Turkey in Europe the situation is far different. The Principality of Bulgaria, and, perhaps, in a less degree, the Province of Eastern Roumelia, will be the hotbed of Russian agitation, the focus of Panslavist intrigue.

A free press has already given birth to violent newspapers. These will point out to the inhabitants of "La Bulgarie irridenta" the inferiority and disabilities of their political condition. They will contrast the promptitude of liberties created in territories where Russia has an influence with the tardiness of reforms left to the initiative of the Porte.

I cannot express in terms sufficiently strong my sense of the dangers of further delay, which can be defended neither on the ground of want of money nor of insufficient information.

Nine months have elapsed since the Treaty was ratified, and the initial step has not been taken, while Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia are practically and amply in possession of all the privileges provided for them at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 568.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 17, 1879.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE, with your Lordship's sanction, leaves by the Varna mail.

After so long a companionship, it is difficult sufficiently to express the regret I feel at his departure. If I do not bring forward any reasons against it, it is because I perceive that the work which still remains to be done is not of sufficient importance to outweigh the reasons calling him home.

I cannot, however, let this opportunity pass without expressing to your Lordship my high sense of the great value of Lord Donoughmore's services.

His ready assistance, sound judgment, and universal popularity have helped to smooth down many difficulties, and to carry many points. He has obtained the respect and affection of all those with whom, publicly or privately, he has been brought into communication.

Your Lordship has been enabled to judge of the tact and ability with which he has discharged the complicated and delicate duties falling specially to his share as a member of the Finance Committee.

He has shown the same qualities in the other business of the Commission, where his name was not so prominent, and I have real reason to be grateful to your Lordship for having associated with me so loyal and able a colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 569.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 219. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 17, 1879.

LAST night I received your Lordship's telegram No. 28.

Having no knowledge of the communications that have recently passed between your Lordship and Her Majesty's Ambassador on the subject of Eastern Roumelia, I can offer only a general opinion on the proposal of M. Waddington that questions at issue between the European Commission and the Governor should be referred to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Such an arrangement would, to my mind, be adding one more formidable complication to the many I foresee in the protracted stay of the Commission at Philippopolis.

It is not yet decided on what points the Governor-General is to be advised by the Commission, or whether such advice is to be sought or proffered. In either case, if his Excellency does not think fit to accept it, the questions at issue would, according to this plan, be referred to the Ambassadors.

These high functionaries are, I suppose, to meet and revise them, deciding either by unanimity or majority. They would have to act as a Court of Appeal on points of which they have no practical or local knowledge, relying on the reports of the Commissioners, whose decisions have been rejected by the Governor, or on those of the Consuls who may take part with the Governor against the Commission, or on those of the Governor-General himself.

Meanwhile, the question in discussion would be kept open. It might refer to the necessity of calling in Turkish troops to quell an insurrection that had already broken out. It would inevitably be important, and probably urgent. The Governor-General would certainly make the appeal whenever he disagreed with the Commission, and public business would thus be constantly brought to a standstill. If any advantage is to be gained by the prolonged residence of the Commission at Philippopolis, it would be from having a body on the spot able to represent promptly and with authority the views of the respective Governments. If an appeal is to lie to the Ambassadors, the decision in the first instance could clearly be given to the Consuls.

But there has arisen another question, and one of very grave importance, to which I beg to call your Lordship's attention.

In the interview with Aleko Pasha, reported in the "Maritza," copy of which is inclosed in my despatch No. 215 of yesterday's date, his Excellency observes:—

"Je réagirai de toutes mes forces contre ces terreurs funestes, et, tout naturellement résolu à ne faire jamais appel à d'autres baïonnettes qu'à celles de la province pour le maintien de l'ordre, je renoncerai, en cas que je ne réussisse pas, à la tâche ardue que je vais m'imposer, par amour pour ma patrie, pour l'honneur de la mémoire de mes aïeux."

I have every reason to believe that this report is in the main correct. In my conversations with Aleko Pasha, though his Excellency did not speak on this particular subject, he certainly gave me the impression that he intended generally to take a Bulgarian line.

What, then, would be the duty of the Commission in case of any insurrection?

An arrangement has been made that the introduction of the Turkish troops is to be decided by a majority of the Commission. This was clearly intended as a check to prevent the Governor-General from calling them in on insufficient grounds. But the converse seems now to prove the rule. The Governor-General pledges himself never to call in Turkish troops, and his pledge I suppose holds good, even though the majority of the Commission might consider such a step necessary.

How could the decision of the Commission be enforced?

Article XVI of the Treaty lays down that the Governor-General shall have the right to call in the Ottoman troops. The majority of the Commission, as I have

before observed, was intended to act as a check on this right in favour of the Bulgarians. But apparently the check has to be applied in the opposite direction. In fact, the introduction of Turkish troops will henceforward become an act of sovereign right, to be exercised if necessary by the Sultan in self-defence, and without reference to the Treaty.

I cannot see what influence the Commission can exercise in this matter that cannot be employed by the Consuls under the orders of the Ambassadors.

We have already seen from the financial administration how cumbrous an instrument is a European Commission, except as a deliberative body. Its presence as a Council to the Governor is a new invention projected by Russia as a safeguard for the Bulgarians. Since this function appears to be no longer needed, I regret to say, I cannot see how the Commission can be employed as a safeguard to Turkish rule.

I have thought it right to bring these views before your Lordship, as I consider the prolonged stay dangerous in itself, the more so as involving the continued presence of agents having little to do beyond promoting the interests of their respective countries, in accordance with their individual ideas and tendencies.

The duty confided to the Commission under the Treaty has been discharged.

The Statute has been elaborated.

The Governor-General has been named; and his course is clearly traced out by the Statute. The provisions of that Act should be at once carried out. They contain no place for the Commission.

Under M. Waddington's scheme they would practically have no duty but that of reporting to the Ambassadors.

This duty, I think, could be equally well, if not more efficiently, discharged by the Consuls, and there would be no longer a foreign element to obstruct the normal current of the new institutions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 570.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 212 of the 16th instant, containing General Stolipine's letter on the subject of Osman Bey, I am positively assured by Carathéodory Pasha that the 200 prisoners alluded to by General Stolipine as having been sent through his Excellency's clemency to Constantinople were Turkish delinquents, confined in the prisons of Slivno and Bourgas before the war. They were transferred to Constantinople to complete the term of their punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 571.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 221. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 19, 1879.

THE Memorandum given me by the Greek Patriarch, inclosed in my No. 213 of the 16th instant, puts forward very clearly the desires and wishes of the Greeks.

The Exarch is to be obliged to live in Bulgaria, the Firman is to be put to an end, and the Bulgarian churches in Macedonia, Thrace, and the other provinces of European Turkey are once more to be brought under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch.

However desirable it may be to strengthen the Greek nationality, I do not consider the proposal of the Patriarch either judicious or feasible. What he asks for is simply this: that the arrangements of Berlin, a principal feature of which was the extension of religious freedom and equality, should be employed to curtail certain religious liberties already enjoyed by the Bulgarian churches, to withdraw the charter under which those liberties were granted, and to force the churches to replace themselves under a religious supremacy from which they are now free.

I have known for some time that such were the views of the principal Greeks of Constantinople and elsewhere, who saw, in a new settlement, the chance of regaining a lost domination. But although the Patriarch in other respects expresses himself in a very liberal sense and desires the Statute to be extended to the other provinces, his suggestions, taken as a whole, are entirely in Greek interests.

The provinces are to be made free, and the Greek Patriarch is to be the religious head of the populations.

If this wish were granted the state of things would be reproduced which has led to all the disorders of the last four years.

The Bulgarians would have a real and substantial grievance, not only the refusal of greater privileges, but the withdrawal of those already existing.

The Bulgarian population is in a great majority over the Greeks. This, in private, the latter will admit. Notwithstanding this they hope, by some subtlety of canon law, spiritually to subjugate this large majority, and to obtain the political support of Her Majesty's Government for this project.

I fear that even the public mention of such a scheme would alone be the cause of disturbance. If sanctioned in any way by the Porte it would furnish an effective argument to those agitators who are pointing out to the populations the evils of Turkish rule.

The argument would be the more effective from being just.

In one respect I am disposed to agree with his Holiness, viz., in the suggestion that the church in Bulgaria should have a Chief of its own. If the Exarch receives the permission he asks for to live at Constantinople, a condition might be made that he should renounce his jurisdiction in the Principality, which should be made autocephalous.

But I see great advantages from the proposal of the Exarch, on which I have written more than once to your Lordship,* to elect for the Ottoman nationality and to reside at Constantinople. The Patriarch objects to this course. His Holiness does not desire the proximity of his Beatitude. This feeling it is easy to understand. But I cannot but consider the views of the Exarch as more advantageous for the Porte than those of the Patriarch.

The Exarch is represented by the Greeks as a man of a dark and mysterious character, full of intrigue and ambition. This may be the case; but at present his object is to consolidate his hold over his church, and quietly to enjoy his authority, and he takes, what I conceive to be, the most rational method of doing so. I have no doubt he will intrigue against the Greeks, as the latter will intrigue against him. But, in the interests of the Sultan, I think it desirable that the Bulgarians of Turkey should look to Constantinople for their ecclesiastical authority, and that the Exarch should govern his churches under a supervision which can only be exercised at the capital. It is impossible to do away with his authority by artificial means, or permanently to subject the Bulgarian majority to the Greek minority by some quibble of ecclesiastical law which pretends to do away with the existing schism. Excommunication has terrors only so long as it is not pronounced.

The Patriarch dwells at length on the evils of Panslavism. I do not think they can be cured by his remedy. If the Bulgarian Church is to be repressed by the measures he proposes, the Bulgarians will look for relief to Russia.

The only way of dealing with Panslavism is to endeavour to break it up by giving to it different centres.

The Patriarch concludes his Memorandum by intimating that, if his proposals are not carried out, the Greeks will seek elsewhere for combinations and alliances. The threat is not very alarming. It is always put forward by them in support of an unreasonable request, and whether granted or not the Greeks will always seek these combinations whenever it suits their purpose. No favours will ensure Greek gratitude.

Nothing will satisfy them short of the pound of flesh. This given, another pretension will follow with the same avidity and the same menace.

England, as much as any other Power, helped Greece to independence. This was long followed by the predominance of Russian influence in the Greek Councils. In 1850 Athens was blockaded by England, and French influence, which had also been neglected, then rivalled that of Russia.

The Crimean War followed, with the occupation of Athens, and the Greeks began again to turn to England for a combination.

* See my despatches No. 79, October 29; No. 86, November 1; Separate, November 10, 1878; No. 10, January 5; Nos. 54 and 55, January 30; No. 91, March 1; No. 137, March 25; No. 142, March 28, 1879.

In 1859, when the Duke of Edinburgh came to Corfu, Greek enthusiasm for England displayed itself in the advocacy of his claims to the Throne of an enlarged Greece, and it culminated in the election of His Royal Highness to the Throne of Greece in 1863 by an overwhelming majority over the Russian candidate. But when in 1864, in deference to the demands of other Powers, the fortifications of Corfu were destroyed, the Greeks declared that this act released them from all gratitude for the gift of the Ionian Islands.

Her Majesty's Government are in a position to judge how far their recent efforts on behalf of Greece has met with adequate acknowledgment.

I am fully alive to the importance of what has been called the "Greek factor" in Eastern politics. But I do not think that the policy of England should be subordinated to that of the Greeks, that the promised gratitude of the Greek race is a sufficient inducement for committing an injustice, nor that the threat of desertion should have the smallest weight in the consideration of any question affecting that nationality.

I much doubt, if the proposals of the Patriarch were carried out, whether, while creating disaffection among the Bulgarians, they would be productive of any permanent benefit to the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 572.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 26.*)

(No. 222. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1878.*

I SHOULD be glad of an instruction from your Lordship by telegraph as to how far I should press on the question of the Russian claim on the province for the expenses of the occupation. The Russians have always tried to evade the discussion.

In discussing the question I should try to establish the following points:—

1. That, for the reasons stated in my despatch No. 164 of the 13th December last, the province should not be called upon to pay anything before the 17th October, up to which date the Russians were in possession of the financial administration.

2. That as the army of occupation for Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia was fixed by Treaty at 50,000, the expenses should be borne in proportion to the extent and population of the respective territories, say three-fifths of Bulgaria to two-fifths of the province.

If these points are carried the claim of Russia would be reduced from 23,000,000 fr. to about 13,000,000 fr.

Carathéodory Pasha, to whom I have spoken on the subject, is of opinion that the question should be decided, so that nothing should be left open, and I think in many respects that he is right. But as the amount is to be paid out of the provincial revenues, and will have to be adjusted between the Principality and the province, another view may be put forward, viz., that it may be advantageous to place Russia in the position of being a claimant for large sums on the Bulgarians, both north and south of the Balkans, who are already exasperated at the waste of their resources by the Russians.

The danger anticipated by Carathéodory Pasha from this course was that it might justify some pretensions by the Russians on the custom-house of Bourgas.

If I find the Russians averse to the discussion, I would put on record a statement containing these views, with some remarks on the financial extravagance of the Russians, and the money spent by them on an unauthorized militia, which might altogether put an end to their claim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 573.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Corfu, May 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Report received yesterday from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, relative to the concentration of a body of Greek troops, some 15,000 strong, on the Albano-Acarnanian frontier.

2. It was originally intended to locate this force at Santa Maura, and the ground had already been marked out for encampment, when all of a sudden a change of plan appears to have supervened.

3. From a semi-official communication of the same date I gather that "this new arrangement is regarded as a menace to Turkey," and the Vice-Consul further adds:—"Ahmed Hamdi Pasha, the Commander-in-chief in Epirus, has this week instructed the Turkish Consular Agent here to inform him, at once, of any military movements in this district; no doubt the Turks are preparing for some counter-demonstration. I fear the Christians are labouring under a false impression in thinking that the warlike disposition of the Albanians is cooling down; it seems to me the contrary is the case. It is high time this blessed Greek frontier question were settled one way or the other."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 573.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, May 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Tuesday evening, 13th instant, a telegram from the Minister of War reached head-quarters here, ordering the troops to hold themselves in readiness to move on to Lepemis, where an army of 15,000 men is about to be concentrated. Lepemis, situated half-way between Agrinion and Carvassarà, is some fifteen hours' march from the frontier, and is a locality notorious for its unhealthiness.

2. A company of infantry arrived this afternoon from Corfu by the Greek gunboat "Nauplia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 574.

Count Andrassy to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, May 26.)

Vienne, 20 Mai, 1879.

M. le Comte,

M. NOVIKOFF m'a communiqué un télégramme de M. Giers portant que le Prince Alexandre recevra à Livadia la députation Bulgare et fera immédiatement après la tournée des Grandes Cours, ce qui lui permettra d'accélérer le moment de son arrivée en Bulgarie.

Le Prince désire et l'Empereur Alexandre y consent que dans ce court espace de temps l'administration actuelle continue à fonctionner en Bulgarie. Le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg espère que cette combinaison sera bien agréée par nous en vue des avantages pratiques qu'elle présente.

J'ai répondu à M. Novikoff que puisqu'il est constaté que l'administration actuelle ne serait continuée qu'à la suite du désir du Prince et jusqu'au retour de son voyage en Europe, nous apprécions les avantages pratiques de cette combinaison et n'avons aucune objection à y faire.

J'en ai informé Sir H. Elliot et j'ai appris par lui que Lord Salisbury s'est prononcé contre la visite du Prince Alexandre aux Cours d'Europe, qui entraînerait une prolongation de l'occupation provisoire.

Je regrette de n'en avoir pas eu connaissance plus tôt. Cependant, le Prince Reuss ayant en même temps demandé de savoir si Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi pourrait recevoir Mercredi prochain, le 22 courant, la visite du Prince Alexandre, il aurait été difficile de nous refuser au désir qu'on venait de nous exprimer. D'ailleurs nous n'admettrions en aucun cas qu'on en déduise un ralentissement dans l'évacuation.

Je prie votre Excellence de se prononcer confidentiellement dans ce sens envers Lord Salisbury, et de lui dire qu'alors je ne connaissais pas encore l'accueil qu'on ferait à Londres à ma dernière proposition.

Votre Rapport m'a informé depuis que le Cabinet de St. James adhère à l'idée de nous concerter d'avance sur toute démarche diplomatique concernant le Péninsule des Balkans.

Veuillez exprimer à sa Seigneurie toute la satisfaction que j'en éprouve et recevez, &c.

(Signé) ANDRASSY.

No. 575.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 55. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, May 25, 1879.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 24. The language held to me about Greece now is precisely the same as it has always been. General Menabrea has been instructed to speak to your Lordship about the answer to be made to last French communication delivered here the day before yesterday, and they also wish to come to an understanding with you in regard to the question of the frontier. I am assured that they have received no communication whatever on this subject from Germany, either here or in Berlin.

No. 576.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 192.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, May 25, 1879.

REOUF PASHA informs me that General Stolipine has hoisted a Bulgarian flag on the konak at Philippopolis and filled up all the appointments in the Statute.

No. 577.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, May 25, 1879.

JOMINI continues to express fears of a rising in Eastern Roumelia on the departure of the Russian troops, in spite of all Russians can do to prevent it by good advice.

He says Prince Alexander will not reach Bulgaria for six weeks, as, in addition to his visit to the five capitals, he will spend ten days in Hesse. The Proclamation which the Prince will address to the Bulgarians has been drawn up during his stay at Livadia, but he softened down some portions of the draft submitted to him which he feared might give offence. I hear from a confidential source that Russians are trying to excite the French Government against us, and that the French Ambassador here condoles with the Russians on the blow dealt to their influence in Central Asia by the terms which we have imposed on Afghanistan.

No. 578.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 447.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 25, 1879.*

HAVE sent following to Consul Sandwith:—

"Photiades [? Bey] has been [? well] received by the Sultan, and I trust that arrangements will be come to satisfactory to him. I have done my best to help him. Use your influence [? to prevent] Chiefs exciting agitation. I am urging the Porte to make proper provision for the gendarmerie."

No. 579.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 448.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 25, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA informed the Sultan last night that General Stolipine had told him that he could not appear in Eastern Roumelia in a fez, but must wear a hat. He came to tell me the same thing to-day, and that, as he was assured that it would be dangerous for him to wear a fez, he should not do so. The Sultan has begged me to ask your Lordship's opinion on the subject. His Majesty says that to give way on this point would be against his dignity, that it would be yielding to the Bulgarian revolutionary party, and that Aleko is bound to wear the uniform which belongs to his office.

The question, although apparently trifling, is, in my opinion, one of considerable importance. If the Sultan is compelled to yield, it will encourage the Bulgarians to put forward demands even more opposed to the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin and to the new Organic Law, which secures to all the inhabitants of the province the liberty to wear their national costume. I should be very glad to have your opinion as soon as possible, as the Sultan will probably delay the departure of Aleko until the matter is settled. And it appears to me most important that he should lose no time in going to Philippopolis, where, according to Mr. Michell, the Bulgarian flag is still flying over the Government house. Wolff, I believe, left this morning.

No. 580.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 449.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 25, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 448, Sultan has ordered Aleko Pasha to wear fez, and he will leave this afternoon by special train. Minister for Foreign Affairs has spoken on this subject, and as to lowering the Bulgarian flag flying over the Government house at Philippopolis, to the Russian Ambassador, who returned yesterday from Livadia, and has requested him to support Sultan's rights.

Namyk Pasha also returned yesterday from Livadia, bringing very complimentary messages from the Emperor, and the assurances of His Imperial Majesty's desire to have the most friendly and intimate relations with the Sultan. Grand Vizier tells me very confidentially that the chief terms of Sultan's message to the Czar and of His Imperial Majesty's answer have not been communicated to him.

No. 581.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 450.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 26, 1879.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs assures me that nothing has been heard up to the present time at the Porte of the reported conflict between Turkish troops and Greeks in Thessaly.

No. 582.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 25, 1879.*

YOUR telegram of 20th received. Will act accordingly.

Tuesday, Austrian Commissioner made a formal proposal to invite Turkey to carry out at once the Berlin Treaty as regards giving over district of Gusinge Plava to Montenegro. Failing this, the Austrian Commissioner proposed that each Commissioner should suggest to his Government that the question should be settled by means of a compromise involving modification of tracing of frontier as laid down in Berlin Treaty, the two interested Powers being invited to arrange, and submit to the Commissioners for discussion, project for such a compromise with a view to a project being eventually forwarded for approval by each Commissioner to Government. I said at once that the discussion for any compromise involved modification of Treaty altogether exceeding my powers, but ask for instructions in case of your wishing such compromise discussed. Austrian and Russian Commissioners considered they had authority to discuss such project, but other Commissioners agreed with me, and referred for instructions from their Governments. Commission note that, according to best information before them, the district of Gusinge Plava is in a state of anarchy, hostile to, and prepared to resist, anything approaching transfer of territory. Have communicated proposal of Austrian Commissioner to Mr. Green, who is at Cettigné.

No. 583.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 25, 1879.*

CAPTAIN SALE desires me to send the following telegram to your Lordship:—

"Commission have simultaneously sent the following telegram, each Commissioner to his own Government, except Ottoman:

"'Yesterday, the 23rd May, in a preliminary reconnaissance between the Lake and Podgoritza, the Commission charged with the work were stopped by the formal and absolute opposition of Turkish authority. They were not allowed to [?] to certify points indispensable to their work because they were fortified, although these are in a zone of territory as yet not determined. Notwithstanding, the day before, on the ground itself, and in the presence of all the members of the Commission, the Ottoman Commissioner, in answer to question of the President, had given formal assurance that orders had been given to allow the Commission to work wherever they should deem it necessary. The Commission regret that in this affair it cannot in any way perceive a misunderstanding, but a general disposition that has been shown ever since its first assembly, the only purpose of which can be to render the performance of its task impossible. In face of this situation, which prejudices the authority of the Great Powers represented by the Commission, it declares that, without prompt and exemplary satisfaction affecting all persons to whom the responsibility of the facts recounted may be traced, the continuation of its business is impossible.'

"I agree with all that is said in the above telegram, except as to the wording, and add that I am entirely in accord with British Consul at Scutari in thinking, that the opposition with which the Commission has met is due to the action taken by the Governor-General of Scutari with a view to obstructing, and, if possible, stopping its work. The Governor-General has since communicated to the Commission an explanation of the cause of the incident, but this explanation was deemed to be altogether unsatisfactory. Fuller [?] are being sent by post, and I send this telegram as it did not seem to be proper for me to separate myself from the other Commissioners in this matter.

(Signed) "SALE."

No. 584.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 25, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir H. Layard:—

"Returned last night from Montenegro.

"I ascertained, with reference to your telegram of the 19th instant, that the disposition for exchange of territory still exists; but as Austria had brought forward question in the Commission, I thought it advisable not to let Prince know for the present that the Porte is disposed to come to an arrangement, lest His Highness should be tempted to exaggerate his terms. I therefore appeared to accept as matter of course His Highness' desire for hard and fast adherence to the Treaty frontier.

"A Turkish official receiving the orders of his Government to rescue Gusinge Plava from falling into Montenegrin hands by immediate negotiation with Prince, would be very likely to succeed. Even such a man as Hussein Pasha, provided Porte led him to believe that Gusinge would have to be surrendered unless he came to a speedy understanding, would probably not return unsuccessful.

"(Sent home.)"

No. 585.

Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *May 26, 1879.*

MY present position towards the Commission is that the Russians, having refused to accept unconditionally as a point of departure for the new demarcation the point previously agreed upon by themselves and the Turks as the termination of their frontier, I have withdrawn from the Commission until the Russians give some explanation of their action which will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 586.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 303.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 26, 1879.*

GENERAL MENABREA called upon me on the afternoon of the 21st instant, on his return from Italy.

While making professions of great friendship for England, and expressing a hope that the offer of Italy to co-operate with England would be accepted in case of any complications occurring in the Eastern crisis, he went on to dwell upon the subjects upon which Italy at this time was specially pre-occupied.

The advance of Austria towards Salonica still remained one of his Excellency's most prominent apprehensions; but he spoke in yet more earnest and abundant language of the danger to Italy, and to all other Mediterranean Powers, to be anticipated from the ambition of France, which would not be contented with anything less than the conversion of that sea into a French lake. He insisted that it was the fixed design of France not only to absorb the Government of Tunis, but to extend her sway along the southern shore of the Mediterranean as far as the mouth of the Nile.

I did not express any opinion with respect to these anticipations, but cordially reciprocated the desire for mutual understanding and common action between England and Italy in all Eastern affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 587.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, May 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte of this day's date reporting alleged attempt of the Sublime Porte to curtail Midhat Pasha's powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 587.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Damascus, May 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that some days since Midhat Pasha sent notice to the French, Italian, and English members of the Consular body that he had received Vizirial instructions not to meddle in any way with the independence of the Tribunals; that petitions must be addressed and sent direct to them, instead of through the head of the Government as before; and that the execution of sentences must be left to them. His Highness further said that, in view of the present corrupt state of the Tribunals, he had telegraphed his refusal to comply; and he requested to know whether the Consular body was prepared to admit the alleged pretension of the Porte, and to apply direct for justice to the Court without his intervention or support in case of difficulty.

Of course the Consuls naturally answered, that being accredited to the head of the executive they could not recognize the Tribunals as independent authorities.

His Highness now states that he has been permitted by the Porte to waive these instructions, and, pending proper reform of Tribunals, to allow things to go on as before.

As regards direct transmission of petitions to the Tribunals, such was ordered temporarily during Rashid Pasha's time, but the order was then held to apply solely to subjects of the Porte, and not to foreigners. Again, it seems almost incredible that the Minister of Justice should seek to deprive the head of the Government of the right which belongs to him by the present laws of the vilayet of executing the sentences and awards of the judicial branch of the administration.

This matter has excited unfavourable comment owing to the inconsistency apparent between his Highness' habit since his arrival of declining to interfere, in respect to foreign complaints, in the control of the Tribunals on the plea of want of power, and his present declaration that the new instructions sought to be imposed deprived him of all means of controlling the anarchy and corruption therein prevailing.

Complaints are made that, while straining his powers when he chooses, and holding tightly the instructions of the Ministers at Constantinople, he declines to interfere where foreigners are concerned, and to exercise in defence of their interests that pressure in administrative and other detail which the head of the Government has it undoubtedly in his power to apply, and which has been generally conceded by his predecessors by reason, at least, of policy.

As regards for instance the business of this Vice-Consulate, I may say that I have signally failed in every matter I have brought to his notice since his arrival, his Highness taking no heed to my letters, and, when personally appealed to, shunning detail, shielding himself behind his want of powers, and deprecating the conduct of Ministers which places him in such a position.

I will not do his Highness the injustice of supposing that he is purposely trying by his line of conduct to use foreign interests as a weapon in his struggle with the Ministers at Constantinople for the attainment of fuller powers; but the fact remains that when a word from him would suffice to give immediate redress that word is withheld.

I would rather ascribe, so far as I can judge, his Highness' policy to an unwillingness arising from independence of character to give to foreigners that support and

protection against local anarchy which, as author of a Constitution, he considers he could, if permitted, grant to all, whether natives or foreigners.

Foreigners are naturally enough disinclined to await the possible future regeneration of the land, and form their particular standpoint, to waive the privileges which they are supposed to enjoy over the native, or to consider themselves morally bound to await patiently the realization of his Highness' schemes for the better general government of the province.

That Midhat Pasha's motives may be liable to an interpretation other than what I have placed upon them, I would mention that having recently sounded my French colleague as to his success in business relations with his Highness, he told me that, owing to the difficulties offered to every case he brought before him, he had lately frankly informed him that he was afraid that any further increase in his powers would render it impossible to do business at all with him. He tells me also that in his official Reports he has deprecated the extension of his Highness' powers, being convinced that if granted it would do away with the protection now assured to foreigners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 588.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 451.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 27, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Michell, dated yesterday:—

"General has struck his Bulgarian flag and taken down flagstaff."

No. 589.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, May 26, 1879.*

HAVE just arrived.

Reouf Pasha is very anxious about 28,000 Turkish refugees at Adrianople who are not allowed to return here. He is anxious to get them back here in a month to be in time for the harvest.

Bulgarian refugees are returning in large numbers from the Province to Vilayet of Adrianople, and Reouf Pasha has secured them a good reception and security.

Mr. Consul-General Michell has shown me General Stolipine's letter to Aleko Pasha announcing the arrangements for his reception, the principal feature of which is his being received at the Cathedral by the Exarch. It is taken by M. Manismaco with deputation.

The Bulgarian flag has been struck and the staff cut down.

All is quiet, but there is some hitch about Aleko's arrival.

I think it would be well if the translation of Horowitz' report, which I have struck out of the Blue Book, could be published. I believe Austrian Government would authorize this if no clue were given to the name of the writer.

No. 590.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.*

DISTURBANCES anticipated in consequence of Sultan's order to Aleko Pasha to come in a fez instead of a hat, as previously promised.

More troops ordered.

(Sent to Layard.)

No. 591.

Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 27, 1879.*

AT the meeting of the 22nd instant, Russian Commissioner laid great stress with regard to mention of Ziwinkale in Protocol 17. This Protocol dates the afternoon of the 10th July, whereas special boundary meeting, at which General Simmons was present, occurred that night. Consequently the drawers of Treaty, by omitting all reference to Ziwinkale, may be assumed to have had good grounds for such an omission in what transpired either on that night or in the interval before the Treaty was drawn. This seems important, if not conclusive. I send by next messenger Protocol of third meeting.

I beg to [offer to] your Lordship my respectful acknowledgment of promotion.

No. 592.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1879, 2 P.M.*

I HOPE you will not forget the necessity of pressing for exequaturs of new Consuls. The delay in granting them is not accidental.

It is a matter to which Her Majesty's Government attach the utmost importance.

No. 593.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 726.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1879.*

I HAVE instructed your Excellency by telegraph to represent to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs that the action taken by the Turkish Commissioners for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontiers is causing the question to assume a serious aspect.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is of great importance that every facility should be furnished on the part of the Turkish authorities to enable the Commission to complete its labours.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 594.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 728.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my previous instructions upon the subject, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government attach the utmost importance that the Porte should at once issue the exequaturs to Colonel Wilson and the British Vice-Consuls, who are to accompany him to Anatolia; and I have to instruct you to use your utmost endeavours to put an end to the delay which prevents them from leaving Constantinople, and which Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose to be altogether accidental.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 595.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 694.)
Foreign Office, May 27, 1879.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the despatch addressed to Count de Montebello by M. Waddington on the 19th instant, which was communicated to me on the 21st instant, containing the views of the French Government as to the manner in which the proposed mediation by the Powers between the Porte and Greece should actually be tendered.

I transmitted to your Excellency a copy of this communication in my despatch No. 690 of the 23rd instant, and I have now to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the action of the Ambassadors towards the negotiating Powers should be simultaneous and concordant, in harmony with the form observed in the XXIVth Article of the Treaty; and it evidently can only assume this form in respect to matters on which a unanimous agreement among the Ambassadors has been previously ascertained.

They heartily concur with M. Waddington in recognizing this unanimity as most desirable, and they believe that it will be most effectually secured by full and free communication among the Ambassadors who will be charged with this delicate task.

Her Majesty's Government entertain the conviction, which they understand the French Government to share, that any formalities which would interfere with that freedom of communication, or expose any differences which might arise to the risk of premature publicity, would powerfully tend to hinder the attainment of this happy result.

I have to add that instructions will be sent without delay to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople and Athens in the sense desired by the French Government with regard to the speedy appointment of Turkish and Greek Plenipotentiaries who should be placed in communication with the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBUR

No. 596.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 12.)
Foreign Office, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received from you a telegram, dated the 12th instant, in which you report that a proposal had been made by your Austrian colleague, that the question which has arisen as to the surrender to Montenegro by Turkey of the district of Gusinje Slava should form the subject of a compromise between the two interested Powers, involving a modification in the frontier as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, which should then be discussed by the Commission and referred by it to the consideration of the several Powers signatories of the Treaty.

In reply, I have to state to you that you are authorized to take part in any discussion for such an exchange of territory if the Commission should be invited by Montenegro and Turkey to consider the possibility of solving the difficulty by a compromise of this nature.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 597.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 78. Political.)
Scutari, May 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the third paragraph of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the day before yesterday the district of Spica passed from the possession of Montenegro to that of Austria.

A battalion of Austrian chasseurs and half a battery of mountain artillery occupied the fortress of Spica and the neighbouring block-houses; but I understand that the permanent military force in the district will only consist of two companies of a rifle battalion and the half battery of mountain pieces.

I have also been informed that the adult male inhabitants of the newly annexed territory, who are principally Roman Catholic Albanians, are to be embodied and disciplined as a corps of frontier guards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 598.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 123.)
Athens, May 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, on receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, referring to a telegram from Constantinople, I made inquiries here as to the reported encounter near Tricala between Greek soldiers and Turkish troops and the slaughter ensuing from it, but nothing has been heard here of such an incident.

The Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires has, in compliance with orders from his Government, remonstrated with the Hellenic Government on the reported presence of Greek soldiers on the 30th of April among the brigands killed near Pachali in Thessaly. It is stated here that if any Greek soldiers were really implicated they must have been disbanded Voltigeurs, whose uniforms are their own property.

I have communicated this information to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 599.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 43. Political.)
Canea, Crete, May 19, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL ALLIX since his arrival in Crete three weeks ago has spared no pains to bring the gendarmerie of this neighbourhood into something like order. The Vali was anxious that one or two companies should be thoroughly organized to serve as a model for the rest, and the Colonel has been having them drilled to this end, they being hitherto quite ignorant of military exercises. The unaccustomed work having proved irksome to them, fifty or sixty of the men have resigned on the plea of not receiving their pay. Many of these are Albanians, the most precious element in the corps, whom it was very important to keep in the ranks. Nobody can blame them for the steps they have taken, and it is evident that all attempts at bringing the gendarmes into a state of efficiency will fail so long as there are no means of paying them. Colonel Allix's mission to Crete will, as I foresaw, prove a failure unless he is provided with funds; until then there is nothing for him to do but to remain with folded hands. I regret to have to add that a cowardly attempt has been made on his life. As he was leaving my house a few nights ago he was twice fired at with slugs from behind a wall only sixty yards off. It is impossible to say what was the motive of the intended crime.

It has become known that a Commission composed of their Excellencies Said, Sawas, and Kadri Pashas has been formed at Constantinople, for the purpose of taking into consideration the affairs of Crete.

As I had the honour of stating to your Lordship in my last despatch, Photiades Pasha is anxious to proceed himself to Constantinople, in order to lay before Ministers the state of Crete, and to urge on them the importance of granting without delay some of the more important demands made by the late General Assembly.

His Excellency received the required permission yesterday, and will leave the island to-morrow morning by the steamer which takes the present despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 600.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 552.) *Paris, May 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

MONSIEUR WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that he had expressed his views respecting the mediation of the Powers on the Greek Frontier question in identic despatches to be communicated by the French Representatives in London, Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburg, and Vienna, to the Governments to which they are respectively accredited.

His Excellency begged me to say from him to your Lordship that he was extremely anxious that Her Majesty's Government should act promptly upon this communication.

He observed that, independently of other reasons, he was very desirous that there should be no appearance of a difference of opinion between the two Governments on this question, as the result would be a renewal of the attacks upon England and upon himself which had been made by some of the Paris newspapers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 601.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 452. Secret.) *Pera, May 27, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN received Count Zichy very coldly at his audience on Sunday. Austrian Ambassador had been instructed to state to His Majesty that, although he had rejected the Secret Article, Emperor of Austria considered himself bound by his word, and that, in the event of Turkey being attacked and requiring his assistance, she would receive it. Sultan merely thanked Count Zichy, and said that this would be in the interest of both countries. His Majesty avoided all further political conversation, and no decoration [? was] this time exchanged, as is customary on the occasion of the ratification of a Treaty.

No. 602.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 453. Secret.) *Pera, May 28, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN told me last night that Namyck Pasha had been received by the [? Czar] in a very cordial manner, and had brought back very friendly assurances from His Imperial Majesty, who, however, in speaking of the results of the war, said that at any rate Sultan had preserved his Asiatic dominions. The observation seems to have made a very unfavourable impression on the Sultan, who asked me whether the Emperor meant that he must consider that he had lost his European dominions. In a long conversation I warned His Majesty of the intrigues which were on foot to detach him from England, and of the dangerous result if they proved successful. His Majesty said he was quite aware of their existence, but that I might rest assured that they would have no effect on him.

He appeared to speak with sincerity, and expressed satisfaction at the successful termination of the war in Afghanistan.

No. 603.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 454.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 28, 1879.*

FOLLOWING received from Consul-General Michell, dated yesterday:—

"Aleko Pasha arrived half-past eleven, wearing kalpak and Turkish frock-coat. Warmly received by crowds of all races. Proceeded to Bulgarian church, where, after short service, Exarch addressed him in Bulgarian, welcomed him to Eastern Roumelia, praised his well-known high qualities and independent spirit, spoke of miseries endured by people and of sacrifices made for them by Russia. Their rights and security were guaranteed by Berlin Treaty, and they looked forward to his Excellency's beneficent administration. Greek translation of address was handed to Aleko, who replied in Greek, assuring them of his intentions to govern province for welfare of all its races, on basis of laws and Organic Statute. Has now gone to konak, as arranged.

No. 604.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 78.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 27, 1879.*

A LONG official account published here this morning of proceedings of Bulgarian Deputation at Livadia, declares that Prince Alexander will not reach Tirnova for six weeks, and after taking oath there will reside at Sophia [? where] Russian Commissary will administer Principality till then.

Russian officials will continue at the head of chief Departments.

All Colonels and Captains in Bulgarian army shall be Russians till further notice.

Prince will call attention of Signatory Powers to necessity of tranquillity in Eastern Roumelia, as trouble there will prevent his maintaining order on his side of Balkans; to importance to Bulgaria of having no Turkish garrisons on northern slope of that chain, and to the urgency of order being at once restored in Macedonia. He will also press questions of frontier near Silistria, right of Bulgaria to a voice in Danube Commission, and he will explain that Bulgarian finances will not bear expense of dismantling the fortresses within the time laid down by the Treaty of Berlin unless the Powers furnish material assistance.

No. 605.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sofia, May 27, 1879.*

THE text of my telegram of Saturday last has been burnt, but the sense was as follows:—

General condition of affairs in the Principality unsatisfactory; many acts of brigandage and disorder reported from several quarters; serious disturbance menaced on Turkish frontier. It is very desirable that the present interregnum may be put an end to by the arrival of the Prince elected as soon as possible.

No. 606.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. .)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May 28, 1879.*

THE population of district of Trn have addressed by telegram a petition through this Legation to the Queen, setting forth that they are Servians and not Bulgarians. They accordingly pray Her Majesty, notwithstanding Treaty of Berlin, to permit them to remain united with Servia. They further state that, should their prayer not be granted, they will [? expatriate] themselves sooner than be incorporated in Bulgaria.

Petitions of a similar nature, signed by Mayors and Notables of about twenty [? department, group wrong] s have been simultaneously addressed to all Signatory Powers.

No. 607.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 28, 1879.*

REPETITION of Sir H. Layard, No. 452 of 27th May.

No. 608.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 28, 1879, 4·20 P.M.*

YOURS 44. Pray refer to Protocol 18 of the 11th July. You will find a statement read by Prince Hohenlohe, which gives an account of the objections made by the British Plenipotentiaries to the frontier line proposed by Russians, and of Count Schouvaloff's consent to withdraw the line to the points west of Karaourgan and Kessadagh.

No. 609.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 36.)
Foreign Office, May 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 44 of yesterday's date, in which you mention that, at the meeting of the Commission on the 24th instant, great stress was laid by the Russian Commissioner on the recital of the proposed Asiatic frontier in Protocol 17 of the Congress of Berlin, where it is stated that the frontier "will rejoin the line fixed by the Treaty of San Stefano at Zewin Kale."

You remark that the omission of all reference to Zewin Kale in the Treaty argues that the drawers of that instrument must have had good grounds for the change of wording in some transactions which occurred subsequently to the sitting of the 10th July, recorded in the Protocol in question.

I have referred you, in reply, to the statement read by Prince Hohenlohe, in the sitting of the following day, recorded in the 18th Protocol. You will find in that statement an account of the objections made by the British Plenipotentiaries to the proposed frontier-line, and of the acceptance by the Russian Plenipotentiaries of an arrangement withdrawing "the frontiers of the Treaty of San Stefano to the points to the west of Karaourgan and of Kessadagh."

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 610.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 304.)
Foreign Office, May 28, 1879.

Sir,

THE Italian Minister read me a despatch from M. Depretis to the effect that the Italian Government thought the time had come to reduce to a precise form the common understanding into which the two Governments were desirous of entering with respect to the Greek negotiations. He did so in very friendly language, insisting much upon the perfect coincidence of interests which existed between England and Italy on this point.

I readily assented to this opinion, and informed the Italian Ambassador of the precise nature of the answer which we were returning to M. Waddington's latest Circular.

The Italian Ambassador appeared to concur in our view of the inexpediency of a formal conference, and the advantage of conducting the deliberations of the Ambassadors in an informal manner. He asked me about the line of frontier that we intended to recommend, and especially with respect to the question of Janina.

I pointed out to him the circumstances which induced us at the Congress, and induced us still, to think that Janina was not included in the cessions recommended by the 13th Protocol. I said that Her Majesty's Government were strongly of opinion that its alienation would run great hazard of exciting an insurrection among the Albanian people, and producing a war in the peninsula which would be fatal to Turkey, and might be dangerous to others besides Turkey. We, therefore, could not take upon ourselves the responsibility of recommending such a cession to the Porte.

Of course if other Powers were inclined to do so, they were at liberty to act according to their own views of policy, and it would remain for the Porte to decide which course it would adopt. His Excellency asked me what measures we contemplated taking in case the unanimous recommendations of the Powers should be disregarded, either by one negotiator or the other. I said that I regarded the mediation as purely a friendly one, and that Her Majesty's Government could not contemplate the use of force in aid of it, either by themselves or by any of the signatories to the Treaty. The responsibility for refusing advice given by all the Powers would be a very heavy one; but no advantage seemed to me likely to arise from attempting to enforce the acceptance of that advice by military means. I also informed his Excellency that we had on a previous occasion drawn the attention of France to the possibility of the Porte requiring some guarantee for the quiescence of Greece, as a recompense for the concessions it was asked to make. The only consideration that could induce the Porte to surrender so large a territory, which had not been wrested from it in war, was the hope that it might produce peace between itself and Greece, and relieve it in the future of an exhausting strain upon its resources; but if the attitude of Greece was to remain, after the cession, as menacing as it had been for the last few years, and this acquisition of territory was only to be regarded as the stepping-stone to further gains, the Porte would have obtained nothing in return for its abandonment of the province.

I said that, though the Porte had made this claim on a previous occasion, I was not certain that it would be now renewed; but I thought that if any such demand were made, at all events it would be just that the maritime Powers, in return for the proposed cession, should assure the Porte that, in case of an unprovoked attack on the part of Greece, they would not interfere to prevent the Porte using its naval superiority for the purpose of punishing the aggressor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 611.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day, giving a version of General Obrutcheff's speech to the Eastern Roumeliotes; likewise, a translation taken from the "Golos," purporting to render the same speech.

Your Lordship will perceive that, though not differing materially in substance, the two accounts now inclosed vary considerably in the form of the speech said to have been delivered by General Obrutcheff. Her Majesty's Government will, doubtless, have received authentic accounts of this speech from other sources, but I have thought it worth while to call attention to the difference of the version published in Russian from that published in French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT

Inclosure 1 in No. 611.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," of May 11/23 and 13/25, 1879.

NOUS avons donné la Proclamation de Sa Majesté l'Empereur aux habitants de la Roumélie Orientale. Après avoir donné lecture de ce document dans la Cathédrale de Philippopoli, le Général Obroutcheff a prononcé le discours suivant, dont le Correspondant de Constantinople du "Temps" lui envoie la traduction :—

"Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale!

"Avant de partir pour votre pays, j'ai reçu de l'Empereur Alexandre II une lettre pour le Sultan. Dans les entretiens que j'ai eus avec Sa Majesté et ses Ministres, j'ai pu me convaincre que la Sublime Porte est animée des meilleures intentions à l'égard des Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale. Le Sultan a bien voulu renoncer pour le moment à l'entrée des troupes Ottomanes dans le pays, afin que toute méfiance de la part des habitants puisse disparaître totalement.

"L'Europe a compris que l'occupation des Balkans était pour le moment inutile dans un but militaire. C'est à vous de prouver que cette occupation est également inutile dans un but politique. Vous n'avez donc pas à craindre la présence des soldats réguliers Ottomans. Quant aux attaques des bandes des Mahométans, vous ne les craignez pas non plus, car on vous a donné des armes et on vous a appris à les manier. S'il arrivait que les Turcs, entraînés par leurs anciennes habitudes, voulussent mettre en danger vos biens, votre honneur, et votre vie, vous êtes trop forts pour craindre quelque chose, car vous êtes en mesure de vous opposer au renouvellement des massacres des temps passés.

"C'est sous des couleurs riantes que l'avenir se présente à vous. Livrez-vous au travail tranquille et paisible. Tâchez d'augmenter le bien-être dans votre pays et fixez-y le progrès et la civilisation. Aidez par une conduite digne à l'établissement de l'administration de la province—administration qui est la vôtre et dirigée par vous-mêmes—et chassez de vos esprits toute idée de révolte contre les décisions du Traité de Berlin.

"Je vous le dis franchement: ni la Russie ni l'Europe ne veulent plus verser une goutte de sang pour vous. Restez donc calmes et ne vous abandonnez point à des illusions qui ne sauraient avoir d'autres résultats que d'amener d'épouvantables désastres et des malheurs sans nombre. Restez tranquilles, soumis, et livrez-vous au travail. C'est le désir de l'Empereur Alexandre, et ce désir doit être sacré pour vous."

Inclosure 2 in No. 611.

Extract from the "Golos" of May 15/27, 1879.

(Translation.)

GENERAL OBRUTCHEFF'S SPEECH TO THE BULGARIANS OF EASTERN ROUMELIA.—Have you heard the words of the Emperor Alexander? Are his wishes clear to you? He hopes that you will honestly and peacefully fulfil all that is imposed on you by the Treaty, and that you will refrain from all disturbances.

Russian blood and the sacrifices of the Russian nation have obtained for you rights which secure for you prosperity and a flourishing future.

Not all your hopes have been realized, but a great boon has been given you; you are now citizens with full rights, complete masters of your affairs and your labour. Your future prosperity depends on yourself.

But remember that this can only be attained by peaceful means. Neither Russia nor Europe desires to shed one drop of blood. You must show Europe that you are capable of a peaceful civic development, and the sympathy which Russia entertains towards you will be equally shared by the rest of Europe.

Endeavour, first of all, not to lose that which has been given you; do not yourselves afford any pretext for interference in your affairs, and you will then have nothing to fear.

His Majesty, on sending me to you, instructed me at the same time to present an autograph letter to the Sultan, in which the hope is expressed that the Sultan, rightly appreciating his own as well as the general interests of Europe, would also make it his object to preserve order and tranquillity in your country and consolidate its welfare.

The audience I had with the Sultan, and the conversations subsequently held with his Ministers, convinced me that the Porte is imbued with honourable and good intentions towards you.

With the exception of the Governor of your own nationality appointed by the Porte with the sanction of the Great Powers, you will see no Turkish authorities in your country. You need also have no apprehension in regard to Turkish troops. Your country is secured against them by Treaty, and the Porte is the least disposed to do anything that would lead to the disturbance of your tranquillity. The Porte does not seem inclined to hasten the occupation of the Balkans. While reserving to itself in its entirety the right of maintaining permanent garrisons, it does not at the present moment see the immediate necessity of enforcing this right, and I am convinced that your conduct will exercise immense influence in the practical issue of this question. The combination of garrisoning the Balkans, originating out of the mistrust of the Powers to the new order of things in the Balkan Peninsula, will probably fall of itself with the disappearance of the needless apprehensions which sprang into existence during the late war. The strategical value of this combination now apparently finds no advocates. The recognition of its political futility will also depend on yourselves. Maintain a peaceful attitude; do not by your conduct create a necessity for the presence of Turkish troops in your country. The Porte will exercise control over its regular troops; against the incursion of Bashi-Bazouks you have arms; they have been given to you to enable you to defend your homes, your wives, and children against all ruffians, and in order to render impossible a repetition in your country of those horrors from which it suffered during many centuries. Henceforward your position is firm.

Enjoy all its advantages without apprehension. Return thanks to the Almighty for them; evince your gratitude to the Russian nation, and entertain feelings of ineffaceable thankfulness towards the great Czar, your emancipator.

Let us pray for the preservation and prolongation of his valuable life.

No. 612.

Count Schouvaloff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le 29 Mai*, 1879.

JE viens de recevoir par le télégraphe la notification officielle, que Sa Majesté l'Empereur, mon auguste Maître, a désigné M. le Général-Major Zelénoï comme remplaçant du Général Stébnitzky, Délégué Impérial à la Commission de Délimitation en Asie, lequel est empêché par maladie d'exercer ses fonctions.

En portant cette information à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 613.

Count Schouvaloff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le 29 Mai*, 1879.

JE viens de recevoir de mon Gouvernement une dépêche dont j'ai l'honneur de placer ci-joint la copie, et par laquelle j'ai été chargé d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur la nécessité qu'il y aurait d'accréditer auprès de la personne de Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre, les Délégués des Puissances en Bulgarie.

En m'acquittant de cet ordre du Cabinet Impérial, je saisis l'occasion de vous renouveler, M. le Marquis, l'assurance de la haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

Inclosure in No. 613.

M. de Giers to Count Schouvaloff.

Livadia, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Mai, 1879.

PAR mon télégramme en date du 4 Mai, j'ai eu l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que la députation Bulgare chargée de présenter au Prince Alexandre l'acte de son élection au Trône de la Principauté avait été reçue par Son Altesse.

Après avoir adhéré au voeu unanime de la nation, le Prince Alexandre a quitté Livadia pour entreprendre la tournée des Cours étrangères.

L'élection de Son Altesse a été le dernier acte de l'organisation intérieure de la Bulgarie à la suite du Traité de Berlin. Un ordre de choses nouveau commence désormais pour ce pays. En attirant l'attention du Gouvernement près lequel vous êtes accrédité sur cette circonstance, vous voudrez bien relever que les Délégués des Puissances qui se trouvent actuellement en Bulgarie n'ont aucun mandat auprès du Prince Alexandre et sont par conséquent dépourvus de tout caractère officiel à ses yeux. Veuillez bien vous informer en même temps si le Cabinet de Londres compte faire cesser prochainement cet état de choses, en nommant un Agent Diplomatique régulier.

Nous attachons une certaine importance à régler cette question avant l'arrivée du Prince Alexandre dans la Principauté, pour ne pas le mettre en présence d'une situation incertaine et écarter d'avance les malentendus qui pourraient surgir quant aux rapports des Représentants étrangers avec Son Altesse, dès ses premiers pas en Bulgarie.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 614.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 101 and 102, nothing is known here about difficulties between Major Clarke and Russian Commissioner beyond what is reported in Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 143.

Jomini will write to M. de Giers urging that Russian Commissioner should be as conciliatory as possible. He declines to do more, as he knows nothing of the case. He volunteered remark that Russia could not accept decision of majority there as she had done on other Commissions, because English and Turkish Commissioners would always combine to override Russia.

Emperor and M. de Giers leave Livadia on the 6th June to proceed to Berlin, and will return on the 19th to Czarsko-Selo.

No. 615.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 28, 1879.*

JOMINI has read to me a telegram from Prince Labanoff. Osman Agha was released on the 20th instant, and was handed over at once to Commandant at Philippopolis for expulsion from Eastern Roumelia.

No. 616.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, May 28, 1879.*

FIRST batch of troops from Bourgas (about 2,000) entering port.

No. 617.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, result of elections for Senate: First College, 11 Ministerial, 10 Conservative, 4 Central, 3 Liberal Opposition, 2 fresh elections; second College, 26 Ministerial, 3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Opposition.

It is said that the Chambers will be convoked on the 13th June.

No. 618.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 19th, Greek Government have heard from Consul at Larissa that it was reported there that a bloody encounter had taken place near Tricalla between Turks and brigands, in which former suffered immense loss; in consequence, two battalions of troops were sent on the 10th [? instant; group wrong] against brigands, 80 of whom were killed, and 4 escaped; 150 soldiers were killed and 50 wounded; brigands said to be Bulgarians, Greeks, and Montenegrins, some of them Greek soldiers, probably deserters. Combat took place near Tsouka and Flambouri. Report of Consul dated the 14th May.

(Copy to Constantinople).

No. 619.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA has just arrived.

Austrian and German Commissioners and myself went to station, but only as spectators, not having received any official invitation. Consuls went in plain clothes.

General Stolipine having [? told; group wrong] the Governor-General that he would not answer for consequences if he came in a fez, he wore a Bulgarian calpac. He was received by a band playing the Bulgarian hymn, which was also sung by the Bulgarian school. A great many Turks of both sexes appeared in the streets. The heads of the religious communities were also present. Aleko is now gone to the Bulgarian church. All is orderly and quiet. The Russians only asked Aleko to wear a hat; but he had ready in his luggage the calpac which he wore.

No. 620.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, May 28, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA has told Schmidt that the Turkish Commissioners will not return, as he is a sufficient representative of Turkey.

Without Turkish Commissioners, the Commission is practically at an end.

Tzerefelew says that following are Russian instructions:—First, to advise Governor-General on all questions relative to execution of Statute; secondly, to advise on the calling in of troops; thirdly, to abstain from interfering in nomination to places. No term seems fixed. I think that it would be far better to dissolve Commission at once.

General Stolipine, who left for Slivno to-day, made, I am told, [?] ing the Czar as the protector of South Bulgarians. He told Kallay he would hasten evacuation, and for this purpose embark troops both at Varna and Bourgas.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 621.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 197. Confidential.) *Philippopolis, May* 28, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)
MAN——NCO, who stays in some capacity with Aleko, sounded to-day Wallace as to whether he would accept official direction of public works.

Colonel Kisiakoff has received a command in Bulgaria.

Madame Skobeleff returns to-day, having taken a house to pursue her philanthropic projects.

All quiet.

No. 622.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

Berlin, May 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)
PRINCE ALEXANDER will leave Paris for London on the 4th June, and will be at the Queen's commands from the moment he reaches London.

No. 623.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 455.) *Therapia, May* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 87, Minister for Foreign Affairs has given orders to the local authorities that every facility shall be afforded to the Commission in the prosecution of their work.

No. 624.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 456.) *Therapia, May* 28, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)
I AM not neglecting Wilson's exequatur, but there are certain formalities to go through. The modified Firman is ready, and would have been sent to-day to the Sultan, but the Grand Vizier was unable to come to Porte. It will go for the Sultan's Iradé to-morrow, and I am assured that there will be no more difficulty.

No. 625.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 457.) *Therapia, May* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING from Michell, dated yesterday:—

"I am confidentially informed that a letter was received this morning by the Eagle Committee here from the Kustendil Committee. Latter asked whether, Greek insurrection being about to break out in Thessaly, and overtures having been made Macedonian Bulgarians to rise simultaneously, the order has not come for a renewal of the Bulgarian insurrection. Eagle Committee will hold meeting to-night to deliberate on the subject."

No. 626.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 458.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 29, 1879.
WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's telegram of the 28th instant, Mr. Blunt reports that Greeks who attacked Turks were not common brigands, but men in pay of Insurrectionary Committee at Athens, including Greek soldiers, and that they were sent for the purpose to incite an insurrection in Thessaly.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 627.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 459.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 29, 1879.
FOLLOWING from Michell, dated yesterday:—

"Ex-Governor-General left this morning, large concourse of Bulgarians and Russians being present. After some comparatively colourless speeches he addressed some young officers thus: 'Ye, with honour and glory, like your brothers at Shipka, serve not only your own country, but the Slav world, and always consider the Czar to be supreme head of Slav world.' As train started he called for cheers for Emperor Alexander, the liberator of Bulgaria."

No. 628.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 698.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1879.
THE Count de Montebello left with me, on the 21st instant, a despatch which he had received from M. Waddington relative to the Greek Frontier question, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Excellency No. 690, Confidential, of the 23rd instant. He did not give me a copy, but he left it with me to read, with permission to copy it.

He explained that shortly before leaving Paris he had had an interview with M. Waddington, and was satisfied that, speaking generally, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs did not differ from Her Majesty's Government as to the mode of conducting the proposed negotiations at Constantinople.

M. Waddington, he said, in using the word "Conference," had not fully contemplated the result which I had pointed out as likely to arise from that mode of proceeding; in fact, as he said, it was "un gros mot" which had been inadvertently employed. All that M. Waddington desired to secure was, that as far as possible the action of the Ambassadors should be conjoint, and should be based on an unanimity previously ascertained.

In discussing the dangers of premature publicity which attended the deliberations of a Conference, he said that he thought that arose from the necessity of having Secretaries in the room, and taking formal notes of proceedings; and that the practice followed in our own Cabinet of excluding all persons not belonging to it, and abstaining from any record of what takes place, would be the model which he should prefer for imitation in the suggested consultations of the Ambassadors.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 629.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 322. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, May 29, 1879.

Sir,

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has been good enough to communicate to me confidentially the substance of the instructions which have been sent to Prince Tzeretelew, and of which the following is a summary:—

1. The European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia is charged to watch over the introduction of the Organic Statute, and is called upon to offer its opinion beforehand upon all the questions in relation thereto.

2. The Governor-General is not empowered to call in the Ottoman troops without the assent of the majority of the Commission.

3. The opinion of the majority should in all cases be binding upon the Governor-General.

4. The Administrative Staff must be selected under the exclusive responsibility of the Governor-General.

I should add that Count Schouvaloff had looked upon this communication as of so little importance that he had not intended to submit it to me, and he only did so on learning that I had been informed, through Count Montebello, of M. Waddington having received a similar communication from the Russian Ambassador at Paris.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 630.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Aleppo, April 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople reporting on the effect of Kiamil Pasha's recall, Ghalib Pasha and the Commissioners' reception here, and their proceedings up to this date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 630.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Aleppo, April 29, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram, I had the honour to transmit to you to-day a telegram of which the following is a copy:—

"The recall of Kiamil Pasha has entirely established confidence among Christian population, and the danger of further disturbances, which before his recall was imminent, has been reduced to a minimum; innocent persons detained in prison for months by Kiamil's vindictiveness have been released, and it has been found that Christian prisoners at Aleppo have been brought here and detained six months without their case ever having been inquired into. They have been sent back to Morash. A bribe of 500*l.* was offered to Commissioners not to examine Treasury Chest. Pasha of Marash and General of troops have declared to Commissioners that Kiamil Pasha accepted bribes from many Zeitounli to restore their arms. Commissioners have informed me that their inquiries show Kiamil's administration to be illegal and arbitrary, and numerous instances of corruption have been reported to them; but Mazhar Pasha informed me confidentially that his report of Kiamil's misdeeds depended on how Kiamil was received at Constantinople and on the maintenance in power of Grand Vizier. The Vali and Commissioners have been received with enthusiasm. Vali is becoming very popular; I think deservedly so. Lieutenant Chermside informs me further acts of Commission are suspension of Governor of Roum Kaleh. All processes of prisoners at Aleppo examined. Christian prisoners at Marash moved from prison to suitable house. Letters of submission received from Babbek and his band. Estimate of police, and statement of service of each gendarme and Government employé, being prepared. Heads of Communities called on to furnish numerical statistics and advised of coming election of Deputies. Question of public works under consideration, including tax on animals of burden entering and leaving Alexandretta, for improving port and sanitary condition of town. Commissioners anxiously waiting leave from Porte to start at once for Marash."

Kiamil Pasha's recall has produced a very good effect on the population of this province, and his successor, Ghalib Pasha, has been very well received; his benevolent disposition and the kindness and consideration with which he treats even the poorest supplicant have already rendered him very popular with the inhabitants.

A few days ago, accompanied by the Commissioners, his Excellency visited the prison and found many prisoners in chains for petty offences in a dark and offensive dungeon. He at once caused the chains to be removed and the prisoners put in a proper place of confinement; others illegally detained were released; and the Christian prisoners from Zeitoun, who had been imprisoned here for six months without their case even having been inquired into, are to be sent back to Marash at once.

In conversation with the Commissioners the other day they mentioned to me that a bribe of 500*l.* had been offered to them not to examine the Treasury Chest.

It is said that there is a large deficit, but it remains to be seen if steps will be taken to expose the person by whose manipulation of the public funds the deficit was produced.

Lieutenant Chermside reports to your Excellency the acts of the Commissioners up to their date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 631.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Aleppo, May 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with reference to certain statements made by Kiamil Pasha, late Governor-General of this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 631.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, May 9, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Malet's despatches of the 19th and 29th ultimo, inclosing two statements made to the Porte by Kiamil Pasha, late Governor-General of this province, and I beg leave to lay before your Excellency a few remarks on the subject.

In the document inclosed in a previous despatch, the line of conduct which I considered it my duty to follow under the circumstances is attributed to motives which I cannot for a moment admit to have exercised the slightest influence on the question at issue between Kiamil Pasha and myself. He alleges that I feared lest certain relations existing between him and Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout should prevent my successfully discharging my duties. It seems strange to me that a Turkish Provincial Governor should presume to impute unworthy motives to a British Consular officer accredited to him on the basis of apocryphal information irregularly received from another British Consular officer in a neighbouring province.

Such an explanation of my conscientious hostility against Kiamil Pasha's mode of administration savours too strongly of underhand petty artifice for me to treat it otherwise than with contempt.

The hostility which he complains of originated in the open defiance of justice practised by Kiamil Pasha in a case which was pending when I assumed charge of this Consulate.

I was then opposed by the same persistent obstacles, placed by him in the way of the punishment of the murderers of a Consular cavass which my predecessor had experienced,

but it is hardly necessary that I should assert that the only intrigues, to use his own expression, connected with that affair, were those of Kiamil Pasha himself. There was no other subject of discord between the local authorities and the British Consulate which could produce hostility such as he has the assurance to describe in so discreditable manner. Having formed my opinion of his character on the indisputable grounds of his conduct at that time, it became impossible for me to entertain for him the esteem and respect which his official position would otherwise have inspired. It is, therefore, far from being surprising that he should have perceived, as he says, a feeling on my part which he calls hostility, but which was simply one of disapproval. He accuses me of a want of sincerity in my intercourse with him. This would imply that I was inwardly penetrated with admiration of him, and that I feigned unfriendly feelings. I beg leave to assure your Excellency that, on the contrary, I was perfectly sincere in my dislike of Kiamil Pasha's character and conduct, which, with more accuracy than logic, he states that I displayed on many occasions. It is true that I sought his society, distasteful to me as it was, during the stay of Mr. Malet at Aleppo, more frequently than I had done previously or have done subsequently, and this may have induced the idea expressed by Kiamil Pasha, that my feelings towards him had been modified by Mr. Malet's influence. They had not, however, undergone any change whatever, and the more frequent intercourse alluded to was merely the result of a wish on my part that Mr. Malet might, during his short stay here, have every possible opportunity of forming his own independent judgment of the man.

Kiamil Pasha further complains that I addressed to the Foreign Office and to Her Majesty's Embassy false reports of the recent incidents occurring at Zeitoun, which he ascribes to designing rumours spread by the Armenians. I hope your Excellency will allow me to point out in a few words the weakness of this line of defence, or of attack, as it may be.

The events of Zeitoun are a matter of notoriety which I heard related and discussed by people of all classes and on both sides of the question on the spot, while the American missionaries, whose statements of facts were forwarded by me to Her Majesty's Embassy, had the same opportunities of ascertaining the truth, and it is absolutely incredible that both my reports and theirs should be false, and that the only correct information is given by the functionary who is recalled for the bad results of the manner in which he conducted the affair.

The insinuation, that my conduct as Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo has been calculated to serve the interests of Russia, is too preposterous and absurd for me to dwell upon it and to take up your Excellency's time with the consideration of so inane a hypothesis.

In brief, there was no insurrection at Zeitoun for Russia to encourage, but merely disorders produced by the weak and unjust proceedings of its rulers, which never reached the climax of a revolt, owing to the forbearance of the Christians and my constant endeavours to make them patient until their wrongs should be righted by the Porte.

The document inclosed in a previous despatch contains, amongst others, the most extraordinary statement that two convicted murderers, one of them being a Christian, were set at large on bail in consequence, partly of necessities, not specified, and partly on account of a delay at Constantinople in confirming the sentence. The Porte will require a large measure of credulity to believe this statement of a proceeding so new to jurisprudence rather than give credit to the well-known fact, that the convicts were innocent, while the real culprit was Daod Effendi, the Governor of Zeitoun.

The delay in confirming the sentence was not without good cause, and the release of the so-called convicts does honour to Kiamil Pasha's sense of justice, which he modestly disclaims.

The document alluded to next disputes the fact of the irregular assessment imposed on the Christian population of Zeitoun. It mentions the reprisals of the Christians against the Mussulmans, without making the least allusion to the outrages perpetrated by the Mussulmans on the Christians which provoked the retaliation of the latter. It insists on the knowledge of the Turkish language possessed by the Christian members of the extraordinary Tribunal trying the Armenians arrested, adding the fabulous condemnation by those members of their own relatives, which, to say the least of it, goes far to convey the impression that they really did not understand the language used on that occasion. There is in the document even a denial of the death of the Armenian woman on the road between Zeitoun and Aleppo, whither she was being inhumanly escorted with eight other Christian women as prisoners. Their houses are said in it not to have been plundered by police agents. No provisions are admitted to have been supplied to the Turkish troops at Zeitoun without payment.

Finally, every possible measure has been adopted by a humane, judicious, and liberal

Governor-General to secure the continued prosperity of a Christian community. It is only surprising that this prosperity should be so little apparent, and that such base ingratitude should exist at Zeitoun, where Kiamil Pasha is spoken of in no measured terms.

These bold assertions contained in the documents forwarded to me by Her Majesty's Embassy circumscribe within narrow limits the question of Kaimil Pasha's recall from the post of Governor-General of Aleppo. The proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry now investigating all the facts, accompanied by a British officer, has not failed to already establish them beyond dispute, and they will thus, as well as by his conduct in other respects, completely demonstrate the utter untrustworthiness of Kaimil Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 632.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, May 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram sent to me by Lieutenant Chermside for transmission to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with reference to the proceedings of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 632.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Marash, May 8, 1879.*

POLICY of Commission much altered. Suspended Governor of Marash would have accompanied them there but for very urgent remonstrance.

The new Governor of Zeitoun will precede them there, accompanied by half battalion of soldiers; this results, I believe, from new instructions from Constantinople: if so, these practically annul promises mentioned in your telegram of April 14.

I gather that first act of Commission will be commencement of defensible barrack at Zeitoun. However expedient eventually, until substantial redress is given to grievances construction should be deferred. It would produce very bad effect if first act be one of force, while it must be long before execution and effect of reforms can be felt. The Zeitounli have blind confidence in English influence. Babbek wishes to know what course to pursue, and if past offences will be pardoned. Unless convinced of good faith of Government, by whose instruction Commissioners must be acting, I cannot give advice to him or others, except to abstain from any aggravation of their case. I have no assurance promised amnesty will be given. Should you approve, could this power be given to Commission?

I think it possible that, deciding, according to circumstances of moment, to best of ability, I may decline to accompany Commissioners to Zeitoun, unless instructed to do so in any case, as my presence would inevitably produce belief of English concurrence in policy different from what I understood you wish pursued. I should visit and report afterwards.

Kiamil Pasha's reputed reception has much affected Commissioners; pursuance of his policy appears likely to be dictated to them. I do not apprehend that it will be followed in the same spirit, or be accompanied by bloodshed, but is certainly not one of true amelioration and conciliation of Christians.

State of country most lamentable; organized banditti everywhere. As every repressive measure necessitates expenditure, for which Commissioners have no authority, they are not very hopeful.

Hitherto I have had influence with Commissioners, whose wishes and sentiments seem excellent. Refusal of recent suggestions seem to indicate they have no option as to their action.

Please forward instructions to Consul, Aleppo.

No. 633.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, May 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a further telegram from Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard with reference to the proceedings of the Imperial Commissioners at Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 633.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Marash, May 9, 1879.*

TWO deputations from Zeitoun to Commission assert loyalty most earnestly, and readiness to welcome Governor and troops, but begged and repeated request that troops be not sent until amnesty is proclaimed, or promised, for fear some act of Babek's small party, through ignorance or despair, might compromise safety of thousands of submissive and loyal subjects.

I know, most confidentially, Commission has telegraphed to Porte on subject. American missionary and I made long ineffectual attempt to change decision of Commission on same grounds.

It seems most important that amnesty should be declared, or power to declare given to Commission.

Commissioners deem it of utmost importance that some troops should go to Zeitoun as "military promenade," and in order that readiness of people to accept them and loyal demonstrations may fully prove the fallacy of idea that there was ever rebellion. I concur, provided the military occupation once accomplished attitude is not changed, and Commissioners not secretly encouraged or allowed to leave execution of reforms in background, or to adopt further repressing (*sic*) measures.

Commissioners further wish troops to be withdrawn after few weeks, and crenellated barrack question left in abeyance. From all I hear from all classes, protracted residence of troops would have bad effect.

Argument that troops at Zeitoun are necessary to protect people is invalid; detachments in Elbistan and various villages and defiles would check Circassians, by whom district is surrounded, and would be equally efficient against any Zeitoun robbers.

Mixed Commission to examine prisoners' cases has commenced sittings; only one condemnation not vitiated by illegalities exists; many have never even undergone interrogation: 139 in all.

No. 634.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 408.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 17, 1879.*

MAJOR TROTTER has forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his despatch to me, No. 32, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, in which he asks me whether he has any right to interfere on behalf of oppressed Christian subjects of the Porte, and, if so, under what authority. I have the honour to inclose copy of the answer that I have given to his questions, which I trust your Lordship will approve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 634.

Sir A. H. Layard to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Therapia, May 17, 1879.*

IN your despatch No. 32, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, you ask me whether you have any right to interfere on behalf of oppressed Christian subjects of the Porte, and, if so, under what authority? Neither a British Consul nor one of any other nation has any absolute right to exercise such interference. But he can and should use his influence with the local authorities to obtain justice and protection for subjects of the Porte, whether Christians or Mahommedans, who may be exposed to ill-treatment. When this influence is employed with tact and judgment, as I am sure it would be by you, representations made in such cases by a British Consul seldom fail to have some effect, especially when the relations existing between him and the Turkish authorities are of a friendly nature.

I shall take an opportunity of bringing the conduct of the Vali, Izzet Pasha, to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 635.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 413. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 20, 1879.*

THE Porte has selected Gabriel Effendi to accompany Aleko Pasha to Eastern Roumelia as Secretary-General. As the Organic Statute requires that three names should be submitted to the Sultan, from which His Majesty is to select the person to fill this post, this ceremony will be gone through, but it has been arranged that Gabriel Effendi is to be the one chosen. He is a Bulgarian by birth, and was at one time, I am informed, an active member of the revolutionary party, but having married a Greek, he incurred the suspicions of his Bulgarian friends, and withdrew from the movement. He was subsequently appointed President of a Tribunal of Commerce in the capital. He is said to be an upright man, and the Porte appears to have confidence in him. His knowledge of the Turkish, Bulgarian, and Greek languages particularly fits him for the post of Secretary-General. He appears to have had relations from his youth with the family of Vogorides, of which Aleko Pasha is a member.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 636.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 415. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 21, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY has informed me, confidentially, that Aleko Pasha has given him very full explanations as to the line of conduct which he is prepared to pursue as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and that he considers those explanations as very satisfactory. Aleko Pasha expressed his intention of maintaining as friendly relations as possible with the Russians, without in any way yielding upon any question of principle or permitting anything contrary to the Treaty of Berlin or the rights of Turkey. He considered that it was in the interest of the Porte, and consequently his duty, to do so; as it was not to be forgotten that Russia had for the time so established her influence in the province that by a word she could bring about a state of things which would render his administration impossible. This, he believed, would not last. He was sent to Eastern Roumelia to preserve the province to Turkey and to uphold the authority of the Sultan, and it was his determination to fulfil his mission as a loyal subject of His Majesty and in conformity with the intentions of Europe. Panslavism would not, therefore, receive any encouragement from him. On the contrary, it would be his object to suppress any

movement in that direction, and to remove from employment and from the province Panslavist agents and agitators.

Aleko Pasha further expressed his intention of treating with equal justice all the populations and sects under his rule, and said that as he was particularly desirous of protecting the Mussulmans he hoped Count Zichy would instruct the Austro-Hungarian Consuls in Eastern Roumelia to bring to his notice any cases that might occur of the ill-treatment of the Turks by the Bulgarians, as his hands would thus be strengthened in affording them redress.

Count Zichy said that he had known Aleko Pasha for some years, and that he had confidence in these assurances.

As I have informed your Lordship that Aleko Pasha had not made a favourable impression here, and as I had ventured to express a doubt as to the wisdom of his selection for Governor-General of Roumelia, I think it right, in justice to him, to repeat to your Lordship what Count Zichy said to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 637.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 418. Secret.)
Therapia, May 21, 1879.

My Lord,

IN a very confidential conversation that I had this morning with Haireddin Pasha I expressed my anxiety lest the influence of Russia was gaining ground in the Palace and the Sultan was yielding to it. I said that as far as my personal relations with His Majesty were concerned they were as cordial as ever, and I had nothing to complain of on that score. But I thought I perceived an unwillingness on the part of His Majesty, and consequently on that of the Porte, to meet the wishes and representations of Her Majesty's Government in several important matters, which made me fear that His Majesty had been led to place a false construction on the intentions and policy of England, and that a suspicion of her motives had been instilled into his mind. I mentioned one or two instances to illustrate my meaning. I added that I had learnt from a good source that certain persons in the Palace, and amongst them Osman Pasha and his connection, Riza Bey, the Sultan's Private Secretary, had endeavoured to persuade His Majesty that England had secretly agreed to assist Austria in obtaining Macedonia, a part of Albania, and Salonica; and that, on the other hand, the British Government were meditating the annexation of Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and Yemen, and were already taking measures for eventually carrying it out. However absurd these insinuations might be, they had, I suspected, made a certain impression upon His Majesty. If such were the case, and he allowed himself to be influenced by them, the consequences might be disastrous to himself and his Empire. I trusted, I added, that his Highness would do his utmost to remove His Majesty's suspicions if they really existed. He must know that they were entirely unfounded, and that those who were endeavouring to excite them were seeking to bring about misunderstandings between Turkey and the only allies upon whom she could count to resist the aggressive policy of Russia—England and Austria.

Haireddin Pasha replied that it was true that great efforts were being made by persons in the Palace to detach His Majesty from England, and to promote the influence of Russia. Osman Pasha, who had proved himself to be a very corrupt man, and who had been gained over by Russia, was doing his utmost in this direction. He never lost an opportunity, both in the Council of Ministers and when giving personal advice to His Majesty, to oppose the policy of England. He and his relative, Riza Bey, had been the cause of the rejection by the Sultan of the Secret Article of the Austrian Convention. They were now doing their best to justify the conduct of the Khedive, and to induce His Majesty to approve it, having, there was every reason to believe, received money from him. They were both dangerous men, whom he hoped in time to get rid of, but he must act with caution. Any direct attempt to obtain from the Sultan the removal of Osman Pasha from the Ministry and of Riza Bey from the Palace might have a contrary effect. But the influence of both was declining. The Sultan was now aware of the unpopularity of Osman Pasha in the army, on account of his maladministration of the War Department; and this would probably soon lead to his fall, as the chief reason for the confidence which His Majesty had hitherto placed in him was the belief that through his influence His Majesty could count upon the support of the troops. His Highness suggested that when I next saw His Majesty

I might take an opportunity of referring to the manner in which Osman Pasha had disorganized the army, and his unpopularity in it, which were now matters of public notoriety, and of pointing out how he had neglected to obey His Majesty's commands in regard to the organization of the gendarmerie and the completion of the Tchataldja Lines.

His Highness assured me that I had no reason to fear that the Sultan was under Russian influence. His Majesty, as I was aware, was very suspicious, and was easily led to believe what was told him by designing persons; but the impression was not lasting, and whatever momentary effect the intrigues of Russian agents in the Palace might have upon him, he had a deep conviction, which could not be shaken, that his own safety and the existence of his Empire would be best secured by the alliance with England. His Highness went on to say that General Obroutcheff, when presenting the Emperor of Russia's letter to the Sultan, had expressed the Emperor's desire to establish the most friendly and intimate relations with His Majesty, and had endeavoured to persuade His Majesty that the interests of the two countries were identic, and that, the war being over and peace established, Turkey would find in Russia her best and truest friend. From other Powers she had hitherto received no help, and she had none to expect from them in the future; whilst the Emperor was determined to maintain the Turkish Empire, and was powerful enough to do so.

His Highness said that General Obroutcheff had spoken in the same sense to him, and he had pointed out to His Majesty that Russia had held precisely the same language for the last 150 years after the conclusion of every war by which she had further dismembered Turkey. If the Emperor really entertained for His Majesty the feelings of friendship that he professed, he had only to give a proof of them by restoring some of the territory of which he and his predecessors had forcibly and unjustly deprived Turkey. The policy of Russia would not change. That policy was the ultimate destruction of the Turkish Empire, and his Highness warned the Sultan that by listening to her counsels and allowing himself to fall under her influence he would infallibly promote it.

His Highness observed that he was neither English nor French, nor anything but a Turkish statesman, doing his best in the interests of his Sovereign and of his country, and those interests he was convinced could best be secured by an intimate understanding with England.

He begged me to tell him frankly whenever I had reason to suspect that any adverse influence was used to prevent the settlement of questions pending between the two countries, and requested me to make a note for him of one or two matters which I had called to his attention. His Highness added that his relations with the Sultan had much improved of late, and that His Majesty was now showing more confidence in some of the members of the Ministry who acted cordially with him, and that Caratheodory Pasha was now again in His Majesty's favour. His Highness seemed better satisfied with his position than I have seen him for some time.

In the course of our conversation Haireddin Pasha admitted that the Sultan entertained the greatest suspicion of Austria, and that it would be very difficult to remove it and to establish anything like a cordial understanding between the two countries, although he was using his utmost efforts to bring it about.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 638.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 419. Secret.)
Therapia, May 21, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous despatch, some information has been given to me which may not be altogether trustworthy, but which I think it desirable to communicate to your Lordship.

Some time ago an Indian, of the name, I think, of Usmet Hussein, came here on a mission to inquire into the manner in which considerable funds sent from India for the relief of the sick and wounded Turkish soldiers during the war had been expended, as reports had reached India that they had been embezzled to a large extent. This individual called several times upon me, and I gave him such assistance as was in my power in his inquiries. On leaving Constantinople on his return to his native country, he wrote to thank me for what I had done for him in warm terms.

A kind of Commission was appointed to examine into the application of the funds in

question. After its report had been approved, one of the members of the Commission, I am told, proposed a kind of preface to it, couched in very fanatical terms, calculated to excite the Mussulmans of India to insurrection against the British authorities. Most of his colleagues objected to its adoption, on the ground that it would become known to the British Government, to whom it would cause great offence. However, it was in the end appended to the report which Usmet Hussein took with him to India. I am assured that Osman Pasha was the author of this preface, and that through his influence it was accepted by the Commission.

I am further informed that Osman Pasha has opened a correspondence, through this Usmet Hussein, with some of the most fanatical Mussulmans of India, and that he has established similar relations with the fanatical Mahommedan party in Egypt and in Arabia. His object is to excite the Mussulmans against England, whose policy it appears to be his object to thwart and counteract. As there are good grounds for believing that he is under the influence, if not in the actual pay, of Russia, it may be suspected that that Power is not ignorant of his proceedings. It may, indeed, be encouraging them.

Caratheodory Pasha had told me that he had evidence that Russia was advising the Khedive to resist the demands of the English and French Governments, with a view to bringing about difficulties in Egypt. His Excellency is probably acquainted with the proceedings of Osman Pasha. The Indian Government will have probably no great difficulty in tracing Usmet Hussein, and in ascertaining whether there be any truth in the statements made to me with regard to his correspondence, and that of other Mussulmans in India, with Osman Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 638.

Memorandum.

ME conformant aux ordres de l'Ambassade, j'avais présenté une note en Turc à la Porte demandant le Bérat de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, nommé Consul-Général de Sa Majesté pour l'Anatolie, et ceux de MM. les Capitaines Harry Cooper et John Donald Stewart, nommés Vice-Consuls sous les ordres du Colonel Wilson.

La Chancellerie du Divan Impérial, saisie de la note de l'Ambassade, m'ayant informé qu'elle ne pouvait pas y donner suite avant de connaître au préalable la résidence de ces messieurs ainsi que les sandjaks et les vilayets placés sous leur juridiction, je me suis empressé d'en référer à l'Ambassade pour lui demander ses instructions et agir en conséquence.

Quelques jours plus tard j'ai reçu le Mémorandum que M. le Colonel avait présenté à l'Ambassade fournissant les éclaircissements demandés par la Porte. Après m'être mis moi-même en communication directe avec le Colonel pour éviter tout malentendu, je me suis rendu à la Chancellerie du Divan Impérial pour l'éclairer sur tous les points voulus. A cet effet, je lui ai remis un Mémorandum, explicatif dont le contenu est le suivant:—

"Résidence provisoire du Consul-Général pour l'Anatolie, Siwas; celle du Capitaine Harry Cooper, Kaissirieh; et celle du Capitaine John Donald Stewart, Koniah. Le bérat du Colonel Wilson devra comprendre les Vilayets de Sivas, Castamouni, Angora, Hondavendighias, Koniah, Aidin, Adana, et les Sandjaks d'Ismidt, de Djanik, et de Beja.

"Les bérats des deux Vice-Consuls devront embrasser aussi tous les susdits vilayets et sandjaks, attendu qu'ils seront appelés selon les exigences du service à se porter d'un vilayet à l'autre."

La Chancellerie du Divan Impérial a dressé son Rapport en proposant de délivrer un bérat au Consul-Général Wilson, qui comprendrait tous les vilayets énumérés ci-haut, et aux Vice-Consuls des Bérats qui n'embrasseraient que les seuls vilayets dans lesquels ils auront fixé leur residence provisoire.

En même temps, le Divan serait disposé à delivrer aux Vice-Consuls des "Travelling Firmans," qui leur permettraient, dit le Divan, de se porter d'un point à un autre, et qui faciliterait leur tâche officielle en l'absence du bérat.

Ce Rapport a été soumis à la sanction du Sultan, et sans être approuvé a été envoyé à la Porte. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a informé hier que des difficultés ont entravé et retardé l'octroi de ces bérats par la Porte. Son Excellence a évité d'entrer dans des détails, en me disant que la délivrance de ces bérats est subordonné à un nouveau Rapport que la Porte devra adresser au Sultan.

Je m'empresse de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté pour qu'elle veuille bien y aviser.

(Signé) HUGO MARINICH.

Therapia, le 20 *Mai*, 1879.

No. 639.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 422.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Memorandum from Dragoman Marinich of the steps which he has taken, under my instructions, to obtain an exequatur for Colonel Wilson as Consul-General, and for officers under him as Vice-Consuls, for Anatolia. Your Lordship will have learnt from my telegram No. 443 that when the papers were submitted to the Sultan in the usual form by the Porte for his Imperial Iradé, sanctioning the issue of the exequaturs in question, His Majesty objected to the term "Anatolia" as being too general and vague, although it would appear that the limits of Colonel Wilson's jurisdiction as Consul-General were clearly defined. His Majesty says that Anatolia may include all his dominions in Asia, and that as English Consuls-General already reside at Baghdad and in Syria there may be a clashing of authority between them and the proposed new Consul-General, which may cause trouble and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. Someone in the Palace has, no doubt, suggested to His Majesty this objection, which does not appear to me, or, as far as I can judge, to Hairedin and Caratheodory Pashas, a valid one. However, the compromise which they have suggested, and which I telegraphed to your Lordship, that the word "Anatolia" should be dropped in the Berat, and that the vilayets proposed to be included within Colonel Wilson's Consular jurisdiction should be alone specified, does not appear to me to be open to objection.

Colonel Wilson has been very desirous that general exequaturs similar to his own should be given to the Vice-Consuls under him; but I have pointed out to him that this is impossible. There cannot be more than one Vice-Consul for each district, and the Porte naturally refuses to accept several. I have, therefore, requested him to inform me where he proposes that each Vice-Consul shall reside, and there will then be no difficulty in obtaining an exequatur for him for that particular district. If Colonel Wilson desires to send a Vice-Consul in a district not within his Vice-Consular jurisdiction, letters recommending him to its authorities can be obtained.

Colonel Wilson has requested me, therefore, to obtain an exequatur for Captain Cooper for Angora. I have represented to him that there cannot be two Vice-Consuls similarly accredited to the authorities of that district, and that if I obtain the exequatur he requires for Captain Cooper it must necessarily supersede that granted to Mr. Gatheral. It is for your Lordship to decide whether the services of the latter gentleman are thus summarily to be dispensed with. I should regret if they were, as he enjoys a good deal of influence in Angora and the neighbouring districts, and has discharged his duties to my entire satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have seen Colonel Wilson, who suggests that, in order to continue Mr. Gatheral as Vice-Consul at Angora, Captain Cooper should receive an exequatur for the district of Kaiseriyeh.

A. H. L.

No. 640.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 424. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 22, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY returned to Constantinople on Sunday last and came up immediately to Therapia to call upon me. He informed me that he was the bearer of the Emperor's

authorization for the withdrawal of the Secret Article of the Convention, and that His Imperial Majesty had consented to so unusual a departure from international usage out of deference to the personal wish of the Sultan, that the Article, although duly accepted and authorized by him, should now be cancelled. My Austrian colleague saw the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the following day, and communicated to him officially the Emperor's decision, asking at the same time for an audience of the Sultan, in order that he might make a similar communication to His Majesty in the name of the Emperor.

The Sultan has appointed Sunday next to receive the Austrian Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 641.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 425.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 22, 1879.

ON receiving Mr. Henderson's telegram of the 24th March last, which was at once repeated to your Lordship, Mr. Malet addressed a note to the Porte requesting that the letters alleged to have been detained and opened by Kiamil Pasha might be delivered to Mr. Henderson. The Porte has informed me, in a note dated the 20th instant, that the Turkish authorities at Aleppo deny that any letters have been intercepted by the late Governor-General, and I have consequently addressed a further note on the subject to the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 641.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, May 21, 1879.

HER Majesty's Embassy has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Porte's *note verbale* of the 20th instant, in which it is stated that the Turkish authorities at Aleppo deny that any letters addressed to Her Majesty's Consul have been intercepted by the late Vali, Kiamil Pasha.

In reply, Her Majesty's Embassy has the honour to observe that Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo reports that he had been informed by a high Turkish official that Kiamil Pasha had shown him letters addressed to Mr. Henderson which he, the Pasha, had seized, opened, and retained. His informant mentioned in particular a letter from Zeitoun signed by several of the inhabitants there praying the Consul to help them, and stating that they awaited his orders. He added that Kiamil Pasha had distorted these expressions, and had telegraphed a malicious translation of this letter to the Porte.

It is presumed that the letters seized by Kiamil Pasha were written in Armenian, and it is stated that his translator and accomplice in this perfidious action was a Roman Catholic Armenian named Sikeyass Effendi, who accompanied Kiamil Pasha to Zeitoun, and was his adviser and instrument in all his cruelties to the Eutychian Armenians, and who for these services was created a paid member of the Commercial Tribunal at Aleppo.

Mr. Henderson appears to have every confidence in the good faith of the person from whom he received the above information, and Her Majesty's Embassy must, therefore, again urge the Porte to take such measures as will insure the letters in question being restored.

Her Majesty's Embassy would further submit, for the Porte's consideration, whether Sikeyass Effendi is a proper person to continue to occupy a judicial position in the most important Commercial Tribunal in Aleppo.

No. 642.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 426.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Major Clarke relative to the proceedings of the Commission for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier. I also inclose copy of a Memorandum drawn up by Major Clarke, which, at his request, I have caused to be delivered to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 642.

Major Clarke to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Constantinople, May 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have this day dispatched to the Marquis of Salisbury the following telegram:—

"A fortnight has elapsed since the last meeting of the Commission, owing to the illness of the Russian Commissioner. His Adjoint (Colonel Wereguine) appeared at the meeting to-day, and although he told me that he was to have full powers, he has to refer all points in dispute to his Chief. This will give rise to great delay, entailing expense on Her Majesty's Government.

"The first subject under discussion was that of Karaourgan. The Russian Delegate, in spite of the President's statement at the first meeting (see Protocol), sought to reopen the question of the right of Her Majesty's Government to assist in the determination of the point west of Karaourgan, and as he began to talk of Ziwin-Kale, my suspicions were aroused. After hearing explanations I said that although I could not renounce my right on the part of Her Majesty's Government to fix the point, still I was prepared, in order to facilitate matters, to accept a point west of Karaourgan, actually on the frontier already delimitated, as a point of departure for our discussions. This point is on the crest of the hills at a distance of some hundred yards. The Russian will ask instructions from his Commissioner."

As your Excellency is aware, the condition under which I consented to commence the work of the Commission was that the frontier beyond Karaourgan, traced by the Russians and Turks without my assistance or concurrence, should be erased. At the first meeting, on the 5th instant, the President of the Commission declared that not only was the frontier beyond Karaourgan erased from the map, but that the position of the point west of Karaourgan had yet to be chosen with the assistance of the British Commissioner. All this appears on the Protocols, and the Russian Commissioner, who was present, made no observation. I thereupon took it for granted that the Russian Commissioner concurred in what had fallen from Nedjib Pasha, the President.

Under these circumstances, I entered upon the work of the Commission. At the second meeting, held this day, there took place that which is summed up in the foregoing telegram. The object of the Russian Delegate was to endeavour to force upon me a point which, if followed out, would have encroached upon the Ziwin position, which, as your Excellency is aware, is of great importance for Turkish defence, and was, moreover, stoutly contested for by the Representatives of Her Majesty's Government at Berlin.

I cannot but characterize it as a want of good faith that, after inducing me to take part in the work of the Commission by an assurance that the point west of Karaourgan had yet to be determined by the Representatives of the three Powers, the Russians should reopen the question of the right of Great Britain to take part in its determination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 642.

Memorandum.

"SELON l'Article LVIII du Traité de Berlin, la nouvelle frontière partant de la Mer Noire conformément à la ligne déterminée par le Traité de San Stéfano, jusqu'à un point au nord-ouest de Khorda et au sud d'Artwin, se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière et passe à l'est d'Aschmischen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stéfano, à un point au sud de Nariman en laissant la ville d'Olto à la Russie. Du point indiqué près de Nariman, la frontière tourne à l'est, passe par Tébrench qui reste à la Russie et s'avance jusqu'au Pennek-Tchaï. Elle suit cette rivière jusqu'à Bardouz, puis se dirige vers le sud, en laissant Bardouz et Yeni-Keui à la Russie."

La partie de la frontière délimitée par la Commission partant de la Mer Noire et aboutissant à un point nord-ouest de Khorda et au sud d'Artwin, paraît être d'accord avec celle délinie par le Traité de San Stéfano.

Après Artwin, l'Article LVIII stipule que "la frontière se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière."

Ici le Traité est parfaitement clair; la ligne-frontière à partir du point fixé, au sud d'Artwin, doit être tracée perpendiculairement (en ligne droite) à la direction générale du Tchorokh, et doit être prolongée jusqu'à la rive droite de la rivière.

Evidemment la seule interprétation qu'on puisse donner aux mots "en ligne droite" c'est le perpendiculaire, car si on admet la ligne droite être simplement une ligne directe, c'est clair qu'on peut tracer un nombre innombrable de lignes directes partant du point au sud d'Artwin et aboutissant sur différents points du fleuve Tchorokh. Toutes ces lignes seront comprises sous la désignation de "directe," mais il n'y a qu'une seule ligne droite, c'est la plus courte, le perpendiculaire. C'est exactement pour éviter cette difficulté qu'on a précisé la direction de la frontière d'une manière explicite par l'emploi des mots "ligne droite." Mais la frontière délimitée par la Commission montre une divergence importante des termes du Traité, et au lieu de traverser la rivière directement "elle suit la Rivière Sari-Sou jusqu'à sa jonction avec la Rivière Milo-Sou, et elle traverse cette rivière et suit la crête." C'est-à-dire que la ligne-frontière reste à la rive gauche du Tchorokh à une distance considérable.

En second lieu, la frontière d'après le Traité de Berlin, "se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière, et passe à l'est d'Achmischen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stéfano à un point au sud de Nariman, en laissant la ville d'Olti à la Russie." C'est-à-dire, la ligne-frontière après avoir traversé le Tchorokh à l'endroit même où la ligne perpendiculaire venant du point fixé au sud d'Artwin se croise avec la rivière, et après avoir gagné la crête sur la rive droite, doit se diriger directement jusqu'au point fixé au sud de Nariman, ainsi passant à l'est d'Achmischen. Mais d'après le tracé de la Commission, la rivière de Tchorokh n'est traversée qu'à un point près de Zor, à 18 kilom. au sud de l'endroit envisagé par le Traité, et atteint Nariman par un détour considérable; toute la bande de terrain comprise entre la frontière ainsi tracée et la ligne droite imaginaire se trouvant à l'ouest, reste, par conséquent, à la Russie. En effet, à Olti, la ligne-frontière se trouve au moins à 10 kilom. à l'ouest de la ville sans aucun motif raisonnable.

Il est, sans doute, à la connaissance de tous, qu'à Berlin il y a eu une grande discussion à propos de la possession ultérieure d'Olti, une ville d'une grande importance stratégique à cause de sa position au débouché d'un défilé, et c'est seulement au dernier moment que le Congrès a décidé que la ville d'Olti soit cédée à la Russie. En présence de l'importance du terrain dans cette partie, c'est difficile à comprendre pourquoi la frontière projetée a été tracée à une telle distance à l'ouest de la ville. On ne peut pas avancer que les limites de la ville peuvent s'étendre jusqu'à une distance de plus de 10 kilom. car, en examinant la carte, on ne peut pas manquer de remarquer qu'entre la ville et la frontière proposée il y a des villages, tels que Pagurus, Tamrut. Je regarde cette partie du tracé comme très-importante.

De plus, le Traité continue ainsi: "Du point près de Nariman, la frontière tourne à l'est, passe par Tchenok."

Or, il y a deux Tébrencks; l'un d'eux, indiqué dans la carte de Kiepert, se trouve à l'est d'Olti, et l'autre est situé au sud-est. C'est ce dernier que la Commission a choisi, tandis que l'autre qui se trouve sur la carte de Kiepert (celle dont le Congrès de Berlin s'est servi) est ignoré. Tébrenck se trouve différemment placé sur les deux cartes de Kiepert (la vieille carte et la nouvelle de l'année 1877). Sur la première sa

position est environ E. 12° N. d'Olti, sur la dernière E. 15° S., par conséquent assez conforme sous le rapport de direction au Tébrenck Supérieur et au Tébrenck Inférieur, respectivement, de la nouvelle carte Russe. Comme la position du Tébrenck du Traité n'est pas claire, il s'ensuit qu'en premier lieu on devrait chercher sur la carte les accidents de terrain, surtout les crêtes, afin de donner une frontière naturelle. Cette frontière naturelle on peut trouver sur la crête bien marquée d'Abussar-Dagh. Une bonne frontière pourrait être parfaitement bien tracée de Nariman en suivant la longueur de la chaîne d'Abussar-Dagh et aboutissant au Pennek-Tchaï, à l'est de Pertuss. Alors Tébrenck Supérieur appartiendrait à la Russie et Tébrenck Inférieur à la Turquie—une division très-juste quand il y a ambiguïté dans le Traité. Mais l'étendue de terrain en dispute est ici très-petit, et je n'en aurais pas fait aucune mention si ce n'est que dans un autre cas pareil, c'est-à-dire, dans la fixation du point au sud d'Artwin et au nord-ouest de Khorda, l'interprétation accordée aux termes du Traité de Berlin par la Commission a été en faveur de la Russie.

Encore une fois, le tracé de la frontière est favorable à la Russie. Bardouz aussi est laissé à une distance de 2½ kilom. à l'est de la ligne-frontière.

A mon avis la ligne-frontière délimitée par MM. les Commissaires est tracée sur toute sa longueur en faveur de la Russie sans compensation équivalente pour la Turquie.

Tant qu'il me soit possible de juger d'après les cartes mises à ma disposition, je trouve qu'il y a une perte approximative de 250 kilom. carrés pour la Turquie.

Selon mon opinion la divergence des termes du Traité est la chose la plus grave, car il s'agit d'une question de principe, et je suis de l'avis que l'interprétation donnée par la Commission aux mots suivants de l'Article LVIII: "se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière" . . . . (selon moi, bien explicites) est une interprétation que les Puissances Signataires n'avaient jamais en vue.

Il y a un paragraphe dans la pièce diplomatique qui me semble être inadmissible, et qui est ainsi conçu:—"Les Délégués Russes et Ottomans sont tenu à se conformer à la carte ci-jointe lors des travaux de la Commission." Cela engage la Commission d'accepter la carte soumise avec toutes ses erreurs possibles, une carte entièrement nouvelle et dressée par une Puissance intéressée. La condition doit être du moins insérée que la carte est sujette à la vérification sur le terrain même.

No. 643.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 430.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis and Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret and Confidential.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Calvert, giving some curious biographical information regarding the Bulgarians who, as reported in my despatch of the instant, have been chosen by General Stolipine to occupy posts in the Administration of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith the translation of an order of the day by General Stolipine, published this afternoon in the "Maritza" newspaper. It calls upon the newly-appointed Bulgarian officials to discharge their duties impartially and honestly, and renders them responsible for the maintenance of order and tranquillity.

The terms in which the Governor-General's instructions are conveyed appear to show that his Excellency is not without misgivings on the subject of the future conduct of the Bulgarians whom he has appointed to the principal offices in this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret and Confidential.) *Philippopolis, May* 14, 1879.

Sir,

IT has reached this Consulate-General, from a confidential and trustworthy source, that the Eagle Committee in this town received yesterday a letter from Jovan Barkuloff, a Bulgarian official of Prince Dondoukoff's Chancellerie at Sophia, who is also a member of the Bulgarian Committee at the latter place, in which letter the Philippopolis Committee is informed that the Bulgarian volunteers collected on the Macedonian frontier are demoralized by their long inactivity, and that many are deserting in consequence. The writer prays for a speedy reply as to the cause and probable duration of the delay in the arrival of the long-expected order for an advance into Macedonia.

It is further reported to me that the answer solicited was dispatched by a special messenger, who left by this evening's train for Tatar-Bazardjik. The Committee here inform their correspondent that they have within the last week received a message from the Moscow Committee to the effect that the time for a renewal of the Macedonian movement has not yet arrived; that so long as the Austrians occupy Bosnia no insurrection in the neighbouring province must take place, as the Austrians would then have a pretext for occupying Macedonia, a result that would be worse than the continuance of Turkish rule; that when the Russian army have evacuated Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria the Russian Government will labour to the utmost of its power to compel the Austrians to withdraw from Bosnia. The Philippopolis Committee urges that, in the meantime, the Macedonian volunteers should remain under arms, and be ready for action whenever the signal shall be given.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 14, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith the French official text of the Circular addressed to the new Bulgarian officials in this province by General Stolipine.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 643.

Circular.

Philippopoli, le 27 *Avril* (v. s.) 1879.

Ordre du jour du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

PAR un ordre du jour du 22 Avril, sous le No. 45, j'ai remplacé les officiers et les employés Russes qui faisaient partie de l'Administration Civile de la Roumélie Orientale par les fonctionnaires indigènes qui entreront en fonctions à partir du 1er Mai prochain.

La position de ces nouveaux fonctionnaires sera incontestablement difficile. Dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions ils devront faire preuve d'un zèle tout particulier, être animés par la plus ferme résolution d'accomplir leur devoir honorablement et consciencieusement.

En présence des éléments divers, et par leur nationalité et par leur religion, qui forment la population locale, le fonctionnaire doit, avant tout, se placer sur le terrain de l'impartialité et de la justice.

Il n'a pas le droit de faire la moindre différence entre les Grecs, les Turcs, et les Bulgares. Pour lui, tout individu possesseur des droits civils dans la contrée est un Rouméliote, ayant droit au même degré que tous les autres Rouméliotes à voir protéger conformément aux lois sa personne et ses biens et tenu, au même degré, à porter sa part des impôts, et des charges qui incombent, à la province.

Les fonctionnaires doivent toujours se souvenir qu'un seul cas isolé de partialité, montré en faveur d'une des nationalités locales, serait immédiatement généralisé et pourrait servir à jeter un blâme général sur toute la nouvelle administration du pays, qu'on accuserait immanquablement d'incapacité, en concluant la nécessité de remplacer les nouveaux fonctionnaires par des étrangers.

Un fonctionnaire qui se montre partial en faveur de sa propre nationalité est un ennemi du pays, et sera, comme tel, démis de ses fonctions et livré par moi entre les mains de la justice.

Outre cette impartialité, que je considère comme absolument indispensable, j'exige des fonctionnaires le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans le pays. J'exige surtout de leur part une active surveillance afin qu'aucune des nationalités de la Roumélie Orientale ne se permette d'abuser des armes qu'elle possède, et je les rends responsables de tous les désordres qui pourraient se produire.

J'espère ne pas devoir être obligé de recourir à des mesures répressives. Tout au contraire, je suis persuadé que tous les fonctionnaires Roumélioles rempliront leur devoir avec impartialité, incorruptibilité, et zèle, et que le bon sens de la population indigène viendra en aide à mes efforts ainsi qu'à ceux de mes subordonnés.

Lieutenant-Général,

(Signé) STOLIPINE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the French text of the Proclamation of the Emperor of Russia to the Bulgarians, published this day in the "Maritza."

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 643.

Proclamation.

Bulgares de la Principauté!

ME conformant aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, j'ai donné l'ordre à mes troupes qui occupent votre territoire d'en commencer l'évacuation après l'expiration du terme fixé par le Traité.

A cette occasion, je ne saurais manquer de vous remercier de l'accueil cordial que vous fites à mes armées lors de leur entrée dans votre pays, des sympathies et des sentiments de véritable fraternité que vous n'avez cessé de leur prodiguer pendant toute la durée de leur séjour parmi vous.

Comme vous avez vous-mêmes combattu dans les rangs de ma brave armée, et comme vous avez avec elle supporté toutes les fatigues de la guerre, vous vous êtes habitués à l'estimer, à l'aimer, et vous avez avec elle partagé la gloire de ses exploits héroïques.

Je suis heureux d'avoir pu m'assurer, par vos manifestations répétées, de vos sentiments de dévoûment et de reconnaissance envers moi et envers toute la nation Russe pour le secours désintéressé qui vous a été porté à l'époque des cruelles épreuves que vous avez subies, pour les sacrifices que l'œuvre de votre délivrance a coûtés. Convaincu de la sincérité de ses sentiments, je ne doute pas que vous, les témoins des grands événements qui ont jeté les fondements de votre indépendance, conserverez toujours dans vos cœurs les mêmes sentiments, que vous les léguerez et transmettrez à la postérité.

Au moment où mes armées entraient dans votre pays, je vous annonçai mon intention de sauvegarder votre nationalité et de vous garantir des droits dont jouit toute société policée.

Dieu a béni les armes prises pour la protection de votre juste cause, et grâce à son secours, j'ai réalisé mon désir.

Les Puissances ne purent, par sentiment de justice, refuser de reconnaître les droits civiques de la nationalité Bulgare. Le Traité de Berlin a définitivement confirmé ces droits, et garanti votre indépendance en jetant, par la création d'une Principauté Bulgare, une base solide pour le développement progressif de votre nationalité.

Bulgares de la Principauté! vous entrez dans une nouvelle voie, dans laquelle l'attention des Puissances qui ont pris part à l'œuvre de votre régénération vous suivra; c'est à vous de vous montrer un peuple digne d'une vie politique indépendante et suffisamment mûr pour pouvoir profiter des droits qui vous sont accordés.

Par l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la Principauté vous avez posé le fondement de votre organisation, et vous vous y êtes réservé une part considérable dans les affaires publiques. Je ne doute pas que vous ne sachiez vous pénétrer des principes proclamés dans les bases de la Constitution, et que vous ne les employiez au profit de votre développement.

Vous vous choisirez un Prince qui sera votre guide et le représentant de vos intérêts devant les Puissances. Unis à votre élu, vous ferez les premiers pas sur le chemin tracé par les Puissances, et, sans dévier, vous marcherez vers le but que la Providence vous a prédestiné.

En saluant le futur premier Prince de Bulgarie, je salue en sa personne aussi la renaissance de la nation Bulgare.

L'original signé de la propre main de Sa Majesté Impériale,
(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

Saint Pétersbourg, le 11 *Avril*, 1879.

Inclosure 8 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE satisfied myself, by inquiries which I have made in neighbouring villages, that the Russian troops in the Rhodope are in reality being called in.

At the village of Deirmendéré I learnt the furthest Russian outpost was now only at a distance of 2 miles from that place, having been called in, about the 3rd May, from a village several miles further in the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Major-General Hamley, C.B., and the other members of the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission, arrived in this town the day before yesterday, and left this afternoon for Tatar-Bazardjik.

The Commander of the Russian forces in this district will supply them with an escort of 250 cavalry at the latter place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 10 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 17, 1879.

Sir,

THE "Maritza," of yesterday's date, publishes an encyclical letter of the Bulgarian Archbishop of Philippopolis, calling attention to the Czar's Proclamation, and advising his co-religionists to prove, by their peaceful conduct and labour, that they are grateful for the benefits bestowed upon them.

He also urges his flock to give no heed to the "letters and books" circulated in the country, and which convey counsels at variance with the Czar's message.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 11 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith two leading article published this day in the local Greek organ.

In the first article it is explained that the Czar's Proclamation was addressed solely to the Bulgarians of this province, because they are in reality the only section of the population that stands in need of the "paternal counsels of the great Liberator of the Balkan countries."

The second article urges that, with the aid of the Organic Statute bestowed by Europe on Eastern Roumelia, the latter can be converted into a "Switzerland of the East," providing always that the Bulgarians cease to cast their glances beyond the Balkans, that the Turks shall abandon the idea of re-establishing their former power in this province, that the Greeks shall form a bond of union between the other two nationalities, and that the entire population shall at last comprehend that the country constituted into an autonomous province by the Congress of Berlin must always remain an "Eastern Roumelia," and an indispensable element in the European balance of power, whatever may be the changes subsequently introduced into the composition of Europe and the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 12 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to report that there is not the slightest foundation for the statements made in the inclosed extract from the "Times" of the 3rd instant, on the subject of an alleged Bulgarian demonstration in front of the konak of the Russian Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 13 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a further Memorandum by Mr. Calvert, giving information, which he has obtained from a confidential source, regarding the proceedings of the so-called "Macedonian insurgents" since last autumn, and the causes which have induced a large number of the volunteers enrolled for that movement to desert and return to their homes.

Since writing this Memorandum, Mr. Calvert informs me that he has obtained corroboration of the statements which it contains. A returned Bulgarian volunteer, of the village of Tsalapitsa, near this town, was to-day questioned by M. Calvert's dragoman, and stated, in reply, that the Macedonian "insurgents" had nearly perished of starvation in the winter, having often passed whole days without tasting food. This man also stated that, shortly before the 13th April (Easter Day) the Bulgarian Archbishop of Ochrida (who is one of the leading promoters of the Macedonian movement) came from Küstendil to the camp of the malcontents, and promised them money and a speedy improvement of their condition, but that his words had not proved true. He said that, out of a body of 750 men, of whom he had formed part, 150 had died or been killed, and that the Greeks of the district of Melnik, in which his corps had been stationed, did the Bulgarians more harm than the Turks, shooting down, whenever they could, every Bulgarian wearing a cross (the badge of the malcontents) on his cap.

This last statement is at variance with previous intelligence received by Mr. Calvert, according to which a number of Macedonian Greeks had joined the Bulgarian ranks. But this apparent discrepancy may be explained, if it be true, as now reported to me from a Greek source, that there are in the mountain fastnesses of Macedonia, besides the bands of Bulgarian malcontents, several bands of Greek guerillas, who, animated by an equal hatred of the Turk and the Bulgarian, wage warfare both on the Mussulmans and on the Bulgarian volunteers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 14 in No. 643.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

SOME hundreds of the Bulgarian volunteers who were enrolled last autumn in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia for service against the Turks in Macedonia, recently deserted from the malcontent forces gathered in the mountains forming the Bulgaro-Macedonian frontier-line. Some of these deserters, being natives of this district, returned to Philippopolis a few days ago. On hearing of their arrival, I requested a trustworthy person of my acquaintance to make inquiries among them, with the view of obtaining some information as to the state of affairs on the Macedonian frontier, and learning the cause of their defection from the enterprise they had been engaged in.

For obvious reasons, I could not have personally interrogated these men with any prospect of eliciting candid statements from them.

In answer to the questions put to them by my informant, they stated that the promises made to induce them to join the Macedonian movement had not been kept, and that they had deserted because they were unable any longer to bear the hardships they had suffered.

Their further statements were as follows:—Before starting from Philippopolis the "Committee" here had promised them 60 fr. a month, besides food and clothing. Up to the date of their desertion they had, however, received, in all, only 66 fr., and had been obliged, during most of the time, to procure their own food. During the whole of the winter they had remained on the mountains, exposed to cold and hunger, and not being able to get even tobacco. In February the leaders of the malcontents revived the despondent spirits of their men by promising that, in a few days, a forward movement should be made, and that all the booty taken in the places they might capture should be divided among them. The promised advance into Macedonia, however, did not take place; and, to appease the grumbling of the volunteers, an instalment of pay, amounting to 20 fr. a head, was distributed among the force in the month of March. Towards the end of that month they were again assured that the order to advance would shortly be given. On the 13th April (Easter Day), the order was, indeed, given, and the volunteers

attacked Radomirtza, a village in the mountains of the Nevrokope district, occupied by Turkish troops. But the engagement which ensued was unimportant and indecisive, and, two days afterwards, the volunteers received orders to return to their original mountain strongholds. Since then the Bulgarian forces have remained completely inactive, though continually given to believe that hostilities would shortly be resumed. Weary of their privations, and disgusted at the non-fulfilment of the promises made to them, they had at last made up their minds to desert and return to look after their fields and vineyards, which they regretted having been persuaded by delusive promises to abandon.

The men questioned by my informant are peasants of the most ignorant type, and have little or no notion of names, dates, or localities. They did not even know the names of their leaders, but alleged that, with the exception of two or three Bulgarians, they were all foreigners, Montenegrins, Servians, Russians, Croats, and even a few "Franks" (Roman Catholics). Probably, by this latter designation, Roman Catholics of Croatia, Dalmatia, or Bosnia are meant.

The could not tell the numbers of the malcontent forces, but said that there were "a great many," divided into four corps, stationed at different places in the mountains.

Their own corps had been stationed at Melnik, but they did not know the names of the localities occupied by the other three corps.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have learnt, from the same informant, that the four corps of malcontents are, at present, stationed in the following places:—

1. One corps at Moliyewo, in the district of Prilep;
2. One on the mountain of Karadja Dagh, in the district of Yenidjé;
3. One at Melnik, in the district of Nevrokope; and,
4. One at Djuman, close to the Bulgarian frontier.

This last information was obtained this morning from a Bulgarian schoolmaster, named Athanassovitch, who arrived here yesterday with a letter from the Küstendil Committee to the Philippopolis Committee of the Eagle Society.

I hope to be, in a few days, in possession of some further authentic particulars on this subject, including the approximate numbers of the Bulgarian guerillas in Macedonia, and the names of their principal leaders.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 15 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

IT is reported that at Hermanly, and at Tirnova-Semenly, the local "gymnasts," or "gardes-champêtres," are being, and have been for some time past, drilled in the use of the artillery mounted on the fortifications which have been erected there by the Russians. At Hermanly 500, and at Tirnova-Semenly 700, of these men are stated to be learning how to work the batteries, under the tuition of the Russian officers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 16 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

GENERAL STOLIPINE returned from Constantinople this afternoon, and General Hübsch, his Adjoint, left in the morning for Slivno, where he is to meet General Obrutcheff in order to take part in the promulgation of the Czar's Proclamation at Slivno, Kyzanlik, and other towns in this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 17 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

I AM informed that the Bulgarian Archbishop of Philippopolis, in obedience to a request made to him by the Acting Governor-General, delivered an address to his flock to-day in the church, counselling submission to the recent arrangements made by the European Powers, in concert with Russia. He urged that Aleko Pasha, being of Bulgarian blood, should be welcomed by the Bulgarian population, and that a demonstration of friendliness towards him would probably induce him to love the Bulgarians better than the other races inhabiting Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 18 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

A DEPUTATION of Bulgarian notables, headed by M. E. Gueshoff, father of M. John Gueshoff, one of the Roumelian Delegates to Europe, came to the Consulate-General this afternoon, and entered into a conversation with me on the present political condition of this province, and on its prospects under the arrangements made by the Treaty of Berlin. The conversation on both sides was very much to the same effect as that which I had the honour to report as having taken place between the Bulgarian Archbishop and myself on the 9th instant.

There appeared to be every disposition, on the part of the gentlemen who addressed me, to abide by the decision of Europe in a thankful spirit, and with an honest determination to make the best possible use of the advantages which have been bestowed upon them.

I continue to hear that the Czar's Proclamation has had the effect of greatly diminishing the ranks of the ultra-patriotic party in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 19 in No. 643.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Philippopolis, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

AS I perceive, from a copy of the Organic Statute for this province which has been kindly communicated to me by M. Schmidt, that no public functionary can be dismissed or placed on the retired list against his will without the sentence of a Tribunal (Chap. XV, Art. 491), I venture to express a hope that, in confirming the appointments made by General Stolipine, Aleko Pasha will be advised to avail himself, as far as possible, of Article 492, under which it appears that civil servants may be engaged by contract for a specified term.

Considering the antecedents and the tendencies of the persons nominated by the Russian Governor-General, as reported in my despatch of the 8th instant, his Excellency Aleko Pasha might find it impossible, without such a precaution as I beg humbly to suggest, to carry on the Administration of this province in the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, or, in fact, with any satisfactory result whatever.

If the Tribunals are composed of men of the same stamp and character as the majority of the new Bulgarian Chiefs of districts, it will evidently be difficult to obtain a judgment against any public functionary of Bulgarian nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 20 in No. 643.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the new Law Courts of this vilayet were opened yesterday at the Government konak with great ceremony.

The members of the Consular Body were present by invitation with the principal foreign subjects, as well as the whole staff of Ottoman officials and the leading native inhabitants. A large crowd was gathered in the court-yard of the konak, where all the troops in garrison were drawn up.

Blessings on the new work were invoked in suitable allocutions addressed to the public successively by the Mufti, and the Greek, Bulgarian, and Armenian Vicars. The second and third of these ecclesiastics spoke in the Greek and Bulgarian languages respectively.

Passing up to the hall adjoining the Courts of Appeal, addresses were read by Shefik Bey, Inspecting Judge of the new Tribunals; and by Thoros Effendi, Attorney-General of the vilayet. The Vali having replied to these, his Excellency led the way to the four Courts, where the Presidents and the members of the Tribunals had taken their seats, and after an exchange of compliments and thanks, the proceedings terminated.

The Rules of Procedure drawn up for the new Courts are now being printed, and will be ready for publication in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 644.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 115.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, May 16, 1879.

THE Servian Government have decided to lose no time in accrediting a Diplomatic Agent to the Bulgarian Government, in view of the importance of at once establishing friendly relations between the two neighbouring Principalities.

He is to proceed to his post immediately after Prince Battenberg's investiture by the Sultan at Constantinople as Prince of Bulgaria, in order to be present at His Serene Highness' entry into his new capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 645.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, May 18, 1879.

SINCE writing my despatch No. 109 of the 6th instant, on the facilities granted to the Jews to trade throughout the Principality, I have inquired of Dr. Russo, the President of the local branch of the Jewish Alliance, as to the correctness of the statements made to me in this respect.

He says that permission has lately been given to several Jews to settle in the interior of the country, but that, save with one single exception, they all enjoy foreign—probably Austrian—protection. He, however, admits that the Servian Government have caused it to be made known to the Jewish community here that any of its members who may wish to establish themselves in other parts of Servia will, on application, receive the requisite official authorization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 646.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 118.) *Belgrade, May 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the intelligence which reached me yesterday from Vranja, by telegram, from Captain Anderson, of the Royal Engineers, the Boundary Commission is proceeding to mark out the new Servo-Bulgarian frontier between Radocina of the Kodza Balkan and Vilo-golo of Vlasina Planina.

By the 2nd of next month the Commissioners expect to be able to reach the heights of Descani-Kladence, about 13 kilom. to the westward of Trn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 647.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 119.) *Belgrade, May 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

SERMET BEY arrived here yesterday evening with the Staff of his Mission. As soon as the necessary arrangements have been made he is to proceed to Nisch to present his letters of credence to Prince Milan, accrediting him to His Highness in the capacity of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Sublime Porte.

I have at the same time reason to believe that the attention of the Austro-Hungarian Government has been called to the inconvenience arising from the exceptional position assumed by the Ottoman Representative to this Court, and that they are therefore considering whether, under the circumstances, it would not be expedient likewise to raise their Minister Resident here to the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

Should such a step be eventually determined upon by Austria-Hungary, which has undoubtedly a far greater stake in this country than Turkey, it would cause great satisfaction in Servia, where much soreness is felt at the difference in treatment accorded by the Powers to this Principality and that of Roumania as regards the relative rank of the foreign representatives accredited to the two Courts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 648.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 120.) *Belgrade, May 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 110 of the 7th instant, on the subject of the recent Albanian raid into Servia, the Russian Minister here has casually furnished me, in the course of conversation, with information which fully bears out the views I ventured to express in the above despatch, that this incursion was to a great extent a retaliatory measure on the part of the Albanians for the wrongs inflicted on them by the Servians.

According to the statement made to him by the ex-Prefect of one of the Servian frontier districts on the side of Albania, the inhabitants of three villages in the annexed territories, who offered no resistance to the advance of the Servian troops during the last war, and had consequently been at first left in undisturbed possession of their homesteads, were afterwards compelled by the authorities to part with their houses and lands for a consideration, and to remove to the other side of the frontier, where they settled down peacefully.

Nevertheless, a body of frontier guards, composed of former insurgents from Old Servia actually in Servian employment, made, a short time ago, a raid across the frontier on these very villagers, and succeeded in capturing some of their cattle.

This unjustifiable proceeding revived the latent hostility of the whole Albanian border population, and mainly led to those late reprisals on their part of which the Servian Government now complains so bitterly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 649.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 121.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May 22, 1879.*

PRINCE DONDOUKOFF-KORSAKOFF, the Russian *ad interim* Governor-General of Bulgaria, has, as he announced this evening by telegraph, selected an officer who is to act as special Commissioner in regard to the vexed question of the old boundary between Servia and Bulgaria at Veliki-Izvor, and who, in conjunction with the Russian Minister at Belgrade, is to endeavour to bring it to an amicable solution.

It has been ascertained that some Bulgarians of the neighbouring border districts possess landed property within the Servian boundary at this point, just as Servians, on their side, hold land in Bulgaria.

It is accordingly hoped that, with a little gentle pressure on the part of the two Governments on their respective subjects, such an exchange of property between the parties directly concerned may be effected as will render it unnecessary to appeal to the intervention of the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 650.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 223.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 21, 1879.*

YESTERDAY, at his request, I received a visit from the Archbishop Khoren Nar Bey, Prince of Lusignan. He is a prelate of the Orthodox Armenian Church here, but his princely designation is, I hear, contested. He is a gentleman of great intelligence, and was, I believe, known to your Lordship at Berlin.

The object of his visit was to impress me with the necessity of extending the Statute of Eastern Roumelia to Armenia. The Armenians, he said, had two claims to this privilege.

1st. Their present institutions had given them an education in self-government.

2ndly. They were an orderly, peaceable people, who had always lived in great harmony with the Turks. Many of the Mussulmans of Armenia were of Armenian extraction, and Armenians had amalgamated with the Mussulmans more than any other subject race of the Empire.

But what the Armenians required was a system of autonomy. They are now oppressed by the officials, and need administrators of their own and an Assembly to control them. The Courts are corrupt and require reform. The peaceable inhabitants are plundered by Kurds and Circassians, and should be allowed to protect themselves by a native gendarmerie. The tenure of land requires alteration, and a general system of public instruction has to be established. For this purpose he was in hopes that the Organic Statute elaborated by the Commission might be adapted to Armenia.

All the nationalities, he added, which had risen against Turkey had obtained what they desired—Greece, Servia, Roumania, Montenegro, and Bulgaria.

It would be politic for the Turkish Government to improve the state of a community which had never given trouble, and which had no desire to separate from the Porte.

I told his Eminence that while I sympathized with his wishes, I had no mission outside Europe. Some of the Sultan's Ministers had expressed themselves to me desirous, as far as possible, of extending the Statute to the Asiatic provinces. But such a discussion was entirely out of the range of my powers. I undertook, however, to report to your Lordship the wishes and arguments of His Eminence, who has promised to furnish me with a Memorandum on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 651.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 224.)
Constantinople, May 21, 1879.

My Lord,

AT the sitting of the Commission to-day I made the proposals contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 227 of the 8th instant.

M. de Braunschweig stated that he could not agree to them without reference for instructions.

Prince Tzeretelew declared that he had no instructions on the subject, and proposed that the discussion should be adjourned to our next sitting at Philippopolis.

Baron de Ring also stated himself to be without instructions, but not with great decision.

I communicated your Lordship's instructions to the Commission, and gave notice of a motion on the subject for our first meeting at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 652.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 225. Confidential.)
Constantinople, May 21, 1879.

My Lord,

A VERY unpleasant incident occurred at the meeting of the Commission to-day.

Prince Tzeretelew moved that henceforward the *comptes-rendus* of our sittings should be merely reproduced in a manuscript copy, and neither printed nor lithographed, each Commissioner having his own copy made by his own staff. He said that by this means not only would expense be saved, but secrecy would be more effectually guarded. He could rely on the discretion of the Bureau; of course Commissioners could do what they chose; but he objected to the proceedings of the Commission being revealed by subordinate copyists, as he had reason to believe had been the case.

M. de Kallay, M. de Braunschweig, and, I think, M. Vernoni, made declarations to the same effect.

Knowing the reason of these remarks I said nothing, being unwilling to wound the French Commissioners, against whom the observation was directed. I however concurred in Prince Tzeretelew's proposal, which was accepted unanimously.

After the sitting M. Rozet came to me, and told me his regret at this decision, as he had made arrangements for lithographing our *comptes-rendus*, which, he said, would cost very little.

I told him that I would have concurred in this willingly; but I must tell him that the idea universally prevailed in the Commission that M. Collaro, a clerk employed by him, was the correspondent of Havas.

He replied that such was not the case. The real correspondents of Havas were himself and M. de Contouly, and that as members of the French Delegation they had a perfect right to do what they liked. As the Havas telegrams have been generally, and almost exclusively, devoted to a laudation of the French Commissioners, that organ of publicity has not been very popular with the Commissioners at large.

In short, the part taken up by the French has raised the susceptibilities of every one. In the Direction of Finance they laid hold of every possible post for a French subject, and at the present moment, not content with a nomination of M. Vitalis to the command of the militia and gendarmerie, they are endeavouring to impose other Frenchmen into the same corps.

I have often been invited by some of my colleagues to join in remonstrances on the subject, of which that of to-day is not a solitary instance; but I have thought it wiser not to create ill-feeling on minor issues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 653.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 226. Most Confidential.)
Constantinople, May 22, 1879.

My Lord,

THE circumstance narrated in my last despatch is not the only one of a strange character connected with the conduct of the French Commissioners.

As M. Rozet, the Chief Secretary of the Commission, is French, the whole of the Protocolling is in the hands of the French Commissioners. This has, on the whole, been done well, though, perhaps not unnaturally, more care and space have been at times devoted to the speeches of Baron de Ring than were considered fair or necessary by the other Commissioners.

At times, however, alterations have been made in the remarks of other members which have called forth considerable criticism, and I desire to bring before your Lordship one of considerable importance.

Your Lordship will see in Protocol No. 63, page , a declaration made by the Turkish Commissioners on the subject of the Forest of Bellova, which is conceded to Baron de Hirsch.

I may here say that the Forest of Bellova and everything concerning the Roumelian railways is a very sore point with the French Commissioners. Baron de Hirsch and the Railway Company, both originally French, have become Austrian, and the agent sent out to settle the Bellova difficulty was Comte de Castellane, whose inspirations in favour of M. de Contouly ended in his disavowal by Baron de Hirsch.

On the reading of the declaration by the Turkish Commissioners on the 21st April, Baron de Ring made some remarks in which M. de Kallay and myself expressed our concurrence. He said that the Porte of course could not give away what did not belong to it, and there he stopped.

In the Protocol as it is printed, however, there appear the words, "mais il (the contract) ne peut pas être opposé aux tiers intéressés qui se prétendent propriétaires du fonds."

These words were not said by Baron de Ring at the time, nor do I believe that they were in the Protocol as it was read, and there is every reason to believe they were inserted later, as Sefin Effendi tells me they were not on his manuscript minutes. In short, the paragraph as it stands was not the one to which M. de Kallay and myself had expressed an agreement.

At our meeting yesterday I mentioned the circumstance, so as to make the necessary corrections. I said that I had not understood M. de Ring's remarks, when they were made, to apply in any way to a trial pending before the Courts, on which I desired to give no opinion whatever. When the Protocol had been read, doubtless from want of attention on my part, the words had escaped me. My only remarks had been intended to establish the point that no act of the Commission could conflict with rights confirmed by the Treaty of Berlin.

I, therefore, could only adhere to Baron de Ring's words down to the semicolon in line of the paragraph.

M. de Kallay made a statement to the same effect, saying that he agreed either to these words or purely and simply to the Turkish declaration.

This declaration was maintained by the Turkish Commissioners.

Baron de Ring then endeavoured to raise a discussion on the point, asking us whether we thought the Treaty could oust from their rights the other claimants on the forest. I said that I could not discuss claims which were now before the Courts. As I understood these claims, they were preferred in virtue of an *ex post facto* law made by Prince Dondoukoff, on which the Commission was not called to form or pass a judgment.

I have asked for a Report on the case from M. Tarin, the counsel of the Porte, to whom it has been referred. I hope to obtain it in time for the messenger.

I would, however, submit to your Lordship that this case is one of the many proofs that can be alleged against the expediency of extending or prolonging the action of the Commission.

As far as I have yet been enabled to gather the facts, they are as follows:—

Baron de Hirsch is said to have obtained the railway concession on terms of vast profit and of more than doubtful propriety. It is alleged that the day he signed the contract he sold it for a profit of 4,000,000*l.* sterling, which he netted for himself, in addition to large sums given to the Sultan Abdul-Aziz and some of his Ministers.

The Forest of Bellova was also given to M. de Hirsch, and there is some doubt

whether or not it is part of the railway concession protected by Article XXI of the Treaty of Berlin, or a separate concession given to the Baron individually. He obtained at a rent of 2,000*l.* a-year a forest which M. de Castellane told me gave an annual revenue of 32,000*l.*, and he has the right to have transferred to him at certain dates still further tracts of the forest land.

When Prince Dondoukoff was invested with the government of Bulgaria he passed a law, aimed, it is alleged, against Baron de Hirsch, because he was a Jew, and also in the interests of the neighbouring peasantry. This law creates or revives certain forestal rights recently put forward by the Bulgarians living in the neighbourhood before the Courts instituted by Prince Dondoukoff, but which during the Turkish rule had not been claimed.

Baron de Hirsch repudiates the competency of these Tribunals. He refuses to appeal to them on the merits, declaring that the judgments against him should be quashed by an Act of the Administration, the Courts having decided on points not within their jurisdiction.

The above I believe to be the substance of the case, though I am not yet in possession of the technical details. I merely call your Lordship's attention to it, as I believe it will be one of the few points Aleko Pasha is likely to bring before the Commission.

He will certainly receive orders from the Porte in favour of Baron de Hirsch, while he will be desirous of conciliating the Bulgarians, who are much excited on the subject. It is, then, more than likely that he will desire to cover his responsibility by a reference to the Commission. This I do not think should be allowed. Not only will the investigation be long and laborious, but the question is of a nature too technical and complicated to be decided by any but practised lawyers.

I trust Her Majesty's Government will take this view.

If the Commission remains to act as a Court of Arbitration on private claims, great evil may arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 654.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 227.)
Constantinople, May 22, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY morning I received a letter from the Archbishop Khorein Nar Bey, asking to introduce to me Artin Effendi Dudian, late Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, whom he brought here later.

I learnt, subsequently to the visit of this gentleman, that he was what Perote society designates as a dangerous man, and under Russian influence. He was a confidant of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, and has shared the disgrace of his protector. It was doubtless with a consciousness of his reputation that he declaimed very strongly against Russia, and begged me never to be influenced by the charge that such or such a Turkish statesman was a Russophil.

He is, however, as are most Armenians, a very intelligent man, and he spoke to me with great force, and even eloquence, on the claims of his fellow-countrymen, going over much the same ground as the Archbishop.

He began by saying that the Convention of the 4th June had been received with enthusiasm by the Armenians. He hinted that the reforms in Armenia would be hurried on, as the Armenians were the first to be considered in Asia, being a frontier race.

They lived on terms of friendship with the Turks, and desired to remain Ottoman subjects. They considered Russia was the enemy not only of the Turks, but of all Eastern populations. They did not wish to become Russians, because Russia russified those she annexed, and the Armenians wished to remain Armenian. But they were so harried and pillaged by Kurds and Circassians, and so badly governed by Turkish Administrators, that they would be forced, unless something were soon done for them, to throw themselves into the arms of Russia.

Russia understood their value. She ostentatiously manifested this feeling. Armenian Generals like Loris Melikoff and Lazareff were made much of when they became Russian, and every effort was made to bring the Armenians over. These movements were becoming so strong that Armenians had been preparing to emigrate *en masse*, on to Russian soil, and had only been prevented from doing so by the efforts of their clergy.

It was wrong to neglect them. They were the only inhabitants of Asiatic Turkey who, by their order, industry, intelligence, and loyalty, added to the wealth of the country. They did not hope for any autonomy so complete as that given to Eastern Roumelia. Even half of the Statute would more than satisfy them. But they had a right to be better governed, to be protected against depredations, and to be certain of justice. What Artin Effendi suggested in the first instance, was the establishment of Christian Valis at Erzeroum and Sivas, and of a Christian Vali, or at any rate a Mutessarif, at Diarbekir.

This, with the formation of a native gendarmerie, would do to begin with.

He urged strongly that time should not be lost in making these reforms. It was said that the Porte could not make them for want of money. But reforms such as these did not require money. On the contrary, they would bring it.

I told Artin Effendi, as I had told the Archbishop, that I had no official authority to discuss these considerations, which he had better submit to Her Majesty's Ambassador. But I added that I would not fail to bring his views under your Lordship's notice.

Although the Foreign Office is no doubt in possession of the document, I beg to inclose copies, given me by the Archbishop, of the revised Charter granted in 1863 to the Armenians. It is printed in two columns, the one in Armenian, the other in Turkish, but in the Armenian character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 655.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, May 22, 1879.

YOUR Lordship will have received from Sir H. Layard the news contained in Mr. Michell's telegram of the 20th instant, reporting the agitation got up at Philippopolis against the appointment of General Vitalis, and other foreign officers, to the militia.

I have no doubt this demonstration has been got up by General Stolipine.

In my despatch No. 211 of the 14th instant, I reported to you his Excellency's language respecting General Vitalis. On his arrival here General Stolipine held a very curious conversation with M. de Kallay. In a boastful tone he said that he was all-powerful with the Bulgarians. If he wished them to rise, they would rise. If he calmed them, they would be calm. Without him they would take no decision.

M. de Kallay answered that he did not doubt this for a moment, and that everything was attributable to him. He also asked the General why he had not suppressed the riot at Slivno. His Excellency replied that the people were so excited he could not have repressed them without firing. M. de Kallay inquired why he had not fired. It was not necessary to fire on the people; firing over their heads would have been sufficient. General Stolipine replied, "Never. I wish to obey the orders of my Emperor, but I respect too much the public feeling of Russia to fire on Slavs. If His Majesty orders me to do so, I will resign my commission; but I will never fire on Slavs. I am their friend, and was one of the original members of the Slavonic Society."

It is, therefore, to General Stolipine that may be attributed this movement. It was his desire to place Colonel Kisiakoff at the head of the militia. This gentleman, when at Slivno with M. de Contouly, recommended him to make a bold stroke for the Governorship of Eastern Roumelia, to name him (Colonel Kisiakoff) head of the militia, and together they would throw off the dominion of the Porte. M. de Contouly, I believe, behaved well under the circumstances, and then, I am told, for the first time, perceived the manner in which the Russians had attempted to make use of him.

It is much to be feared that if appointed Commander of the Roumelian forces, Colonel Kisiakoff may exercise an influence over Aleko Pasha, and induce him to aim at establishing himself as a semi-independent Prince of the Dynasty of Vogorides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 656.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 226 of the 22nd instant, in which reference is made to the Forest of Bellova, I have the honour to inclose a Report given me on the subject by M. Rappaport, Baron de Hirsch's agent, which was, I believe, drawn up by M. Tarin, a legal Counsel of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 656.

Report.

PAR une Convention en date du 18 Mai, 1872, M. le Baron de Hirsch recevait du Gouvernement Impérial, avec la Concession des chemins de fer de la Turquie d'Europe, le droit accessoire, compris dans cette Concession, d'exploitation pendant trente-cinq ans d'une certaine étendue de forêts de l'Etat situées aux environs de Bellova.

Une partie de ces forêts lui fut délivrée par la suite, et il en a poursuivi jusqu'à ces derniers temps l'exploitation paisible sans aucune difficulté.

Les forêts dont il s'agit rentrent dans les limites de la Roumélie Orientale, créée par le Traité de Berlin.

Au mois de Décembre 1878, les paysans des communes voisines, élevant tout à coup la prétention d'être propriétaires ou usagers des dites forêts, s'adressèrent, pour faire consacrer leur prétendu droit, au Tribunal Bulgare de Tatar-Bazardjik, récemment institué par les autorités Russes. Ce Tribunal ayant admis la demande, les paysans armés du jugement, arrêtèrent de force et continuent jusqu'à ce moment d'empêcher l'exploitation forestière de Bellova.

Cependant, cette sentence du Tribunal de Tatar-Bazardjik est entachée de toutes sortes de nullités radicales et absolues. Elle est d'abord nulle, pour vices de formes essentielles, comme ayant été rendue sans l'intervention des autorités, dont relèvent la Compagnie du Chemin de Fer et M. le Baron de Hirsch, sans l'assistance du drogman Austro-Hongrois, et sans aucune des autres garanties et immunités les plus élémentaires qui protègent l'étranger en vertu des Capitulations, lesquelles ont été expressément maintenues dans la Roumélie Orientale par l'Article XX du Traité de Berlin.

De plus, la sentence est absolument incompétente et doit être tenue pour inexistante et non-avenue, comme étant émanée d'un Tribunal provincial, malgré les droits acquis de la Compagnie des Chemins de Fer à la juridiction centrale de Constantinople, et en violation de l'Article XXI du Traité de Berlin, qui maintient intégralement ces droits acquis.

Au reste, la compétence de la juridiction centrale sur les questions qui se rattachent à la concession des chemins de fer est si incontestable, que les paysans des communes de Bellova l'ont, eux-mêmes, tacitement reconnu, puisque, n'ayant aucun espoir de s'y soustraire par des moyens légaux, ils ont épié la période transitoire de l'occupation de la Roumélie Orientale par les armées Russes, et profité surtout du régime militaire et extra-légal du règlement Dondoukoff-Korsakoff pour tenter de saisir, par surprise, de leurs prétentions, un Tribunal qu'ils savaient être incompétent.

Cette tentative a été désavouée même par l'Ambassade de Russie à Constantinople. En effet, à différentes reprises et principalement dans deux notes spéciales, du $\frac{3}{15}$ Mars, et du 12 Avril, répondant à la protestation qui lui était communiquée par l'Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie à Constantinople, M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie a successivement reconnu l'incompétence du Tribunal de Tatar-Bazardjik; mais, comme moyen d'arriver à l'annulation de la sentence, il conseillait de recourir à la voie de l'appel devant la Cour de Philippopoli. M. le Baron de Hirsch ne pouvait en aucune façon adopter cette procédure sans paraître renoncer au droit précieux de faire constater par voie administrative la nullité d'un jugement, qui est contraire à tous les principes du droit public et international. Aussi le concessionnaire s'est-il borné à formuler ses plus amples réserves et à recourir contre le Gouvernement Impérial

representing France, Germany, Austria, Russia, Italy, and Turkey arrived on the 11th instant.

The first formal meeting of the Commission since the adjournment for the winter in November last was held here on the 12th instant, all the members being present.

The following decisions were arrived at:—

1. That the work of delimitation should commence on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier at the point near Crni-Vrh, where the delimitation ended last year.

2. That the Commission should proceed to Vranja as soon as possible; thence to the Babina Gora.

I beg to transmit herewith notes of the proceedings of the Commission on the 12th instant, drawn up by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg immediately after the meeting.

The Commissioners leave Nisch to-day, and will arrive at Vranja on the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 659.

Notes of Proceedings of a Meeting held at Nisch, 12th May, 1879, by the Servian Boundary Commission.

THE first meeting, since the Servian Boundary Commission adjourned for the winter in November 1878, was held at Nisch 12th May, 1879, at 11 A.M.

All the Commissioners were present.

The President, M. Aubaret (French Commissioner), informed the meeting that the first question was to decide where work should commence. The part marked out last year near Vranja left two portions of the frontier to be completed, viz., that between Servia and Bulgaria and that between Servia and Turkey. For himself he should prefer beginning with the former, because the country through which the latter runs had lately been the scene of a struggle between the Albanians and Servians, and might not in consequence be sufficiently secure for the Commission to lay down the Boundary. Moreover, work on the Servo-Turkish frontier could not be commenced at present, in consequence of the snow which was still on the Kopaonik.

All the Commissioners voted to commence operations on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, beginning from Babina Gora (where work finished last year) and proceeding to Crni-Vrh, and then northwards, except the Turkish Commissioner who proposed to take the Servo-Turkish frontier first in hand, and the German and Russian Commissioners who voted with the majority.

It was decided to proceed to Vranja as soon as possible; thence to Babina Gora.

Captain Anderson drew attention to the maps of the Servian Boundary, marked last year, which had been prepared in London during the winter, and to the photo-zincographed copies of these maps which were now ready for distribution among the Commissioners; also to a table drawn up showing the detail of this line. The President requested the British Commissioner to defer the consideration of this subject till the next meeting, by which time the President would have received his baggage, when comparison could be made with such documents as he had in his possession.

No. 660.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador respecting the districts which I propose to assign to the officers who have recently been appointed to be Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 1 in No. 660.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Pera, May 22, 1879.*

IN compliance with your Excellency's request I have the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum of the districts which I propose to assign to the officers who have recently been appointed to be Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

I would venture at the same time to express a hope that the Porte may be urged to grant Berats to Captains Stewart and Cooper without delay, so that I may be enabled, whilst passing through Konich and Kaisariyeh, to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure the recognition of these officers by the authorities of the districts in which they will be employed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 660.

Memorandum of Districts which it is proposed to assign to the Officers recently appointed to be Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

CAPTAIN D. H. STEWART, 11th Hussars, Vilayet of Konieh.

Captain Harry Cooper, 47th Regiment, Sandjak of Kaisariyeh and Vilayet of Adana.

Lieutenant-Colonel The Honourable G. Villiers, Grenadier Guards, Vilayet of Kastamouni.

Lieutenant H. Chermside, Royal Engineers, Vilayet of Brusa.

I propose to discharge myself such duties as may be necessary in the Vilayets of Siwas and Janik.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

No. 661.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 19th instant I sent the following telegram to the Foreign Office:—

"A fortnight has elapsed since the last meeting of the Commission owing to the illness of the Russian Commissioner. His Adjoint appeared at the meeting to-day, and, although he told me that he was to have full powers, he has to refer all points in dispute to his Chief. This will give rise to great delays, entailing expense on Her Majesty's Government.

"The first subject under discussion was that of Karaourgan. The Russian Delegate, in spite of the President's statement at the first meeting (*vide* Protocol), sought to reopen the question of the right of Her Majesty's Government to assist in the determination of the point west of Karaourgan, and as he began to talk of Zivin-Kale my suspicions were aroused. After hearing explanations, I said that although I could not renounce my right to fix the point on the part of Her Majesty's Government, still I was prepared, in order to facilitate matters, to accept a point west of Karaourgan, actually on the frontier already delimitated, as a point of departure for our discussions. This point is on the crest of the hills at a distance of 700 yards. The Russian Adjoint will ask instructions from his Commissioner."

This day (22nd) we have held a long and animated séance, but I regret to inform your Lordship that we have been unable to determine even our point of departure west of Karaourgan, nor do I see any chance of our being able to agree, as, although the Turks are of my way of thinking, we have no power to enforce the opinion of the majority. It is with great regret that I have to inform your Lordship that the Russians have been guilty of a great breach of good faith, which I can scarcely find words to characterize. Their aim

and object to-day, as before, has been to seek to re-establish the portion of the frontier beyond Karaourgan, in spite of the circumstance that they had declared it to be erased by the mouth of the President of the Commission at the first séance of the 5th May, of which your Lordship has by this time, no doubt, received the Protocol.

As your Lordship is aware, at the first preliminary séance after my arrival here, I withdrew from the meeting on finding that the Russians and Turks in their delimitation of the frontier had proceeded beyond Karaourgan. After hearing from Mr. Malet that the Russian Ambassador and Carathéodory Pasha had agreed to this erasure of the portion thus irregularly traced, I agreed to accept the frontier traced by the Russians and Turks as far as the parallel of Karaourgan, and to admit the termination of that frontier as the point of departure for our delimitation, but upon the condition that the frontier which had been traced to the south was erased from the map.

Under these conditions I presented myself at the next meeting, and Mr. Malet also informed Prince Labanoff that, provided the part of the frontier south of Karaourgan was erased, I, on my side, was prepared to accept the point on the frontier west of Karaourgan fixed by the Russians and Turks, and not to enforce my right on the part of Her Majesty's Government to reopen the question of fixing the point.

After I had been informed in the séance by the President of the Commission that that part of the frontier to which I had objected had been erased, I entered upon the work of delimitation, implicitly trusting that the Russians would respect their engagement.

But I regret to say that the Russians have been using every artifice to entangle the acceptance of that point with the discussion of another point to the south-west of Karaourgan, and, in fact, to re-establish the frontier to which I had objected, and to the erasure of which they had given their consent, and they endeavoured, and still wish to make, their acceptation of a point to which they had previously agreed conditional, on my acceptance of the frontier already erased with their consent, the erasure of which was a condition upon which I entered the séance.

Moreover, they have endeavoured to show that I renounced my right to determine the point west of Karaourgan, by quoting from a letter addressed by Mr. Malet to Prince Labanoff, in which the former says that the English Commissioner withdraws his demand ("retire son exigence") to revise the fixation of the point west of Karaourgan, whereas I have never renounced any such right. (See *inter alia*, my despatch No. 27, Protocol of second meeting, &c.) This "withdrawal of my demand" to fix the point was based on the acceptance of two conditions by the Russians and Turks: (1) that a certain frontier line traced on a map remained without alteration as far as the parallel of Karaourgan; and (2) that the portion of the frontier line south of that point was erased. If the Russians, as in fact they have now done, go back from their word, and endeavour to re-establish this line of frontier irregularly traced, I, on my side, am also relieved from my engagement, and am as free as ever to participate on the part of Her Majesty's Government in the fixation of the point west of Karaourgan.

I insisted that the point of departure for our deliberations should be a point west of Karaourgan, *i.e.*, on the parallel of latitude through that village. The point is marked X on the map herewith sent, and is a point on the frontier previously traced by the Russians and Turks. The Russians wished to attach the condition to their acceptance of this point X that I should accept their point Y. (See map.) I refused absolutely to admit of any conditions being attached to my acceptance of the point of departure.

The Treaty of Berlin I argued was perfectly clear, "D'un point à l'ouest près du village de Karaourgan, &c." The point X was due west of Karaourgan, and the difficulty of establishing an exact interpretation of the word "près" was avoided, inasmuch as the Russians and Turks had already traced their frontier through that point. On the other hand, the bearing of the point Y from Karaourgan is west 27° south, which is no longer a point west of Karaourgan, and, therefore, fails to fulfil one of the conditions imposed by the Signatory Powers at the Congress of Berlin.

Your Lordship will perceive that the object of the Russians is to gain a position on the crest of a hill, which in time of war would be absolutely essential to the Turkish defence for the line of their outposts, and that if allowed to include the point Y within the Russian frontier the value of the Zivin position would be gone.

My Lord, the case admits of no compromise. The point Y cannot be admitted for one moment. It cannot be maintained by any possible twisting of the Berlin Treaty. Finding themselves weak on this Treaty interpretation, the Russians took refuge in Protocol No. 17, p. 251, where it is said "that the line of frontier will rejoin the line fixed by the Treaty of San Stefano at Zivin-Kale," hoping by this to be able to throw the frontier to the south. But, if your Lordship will place the transparent tracing of the San Stefano line upon the Russian 20-verst map, you will see that the point where the frontier

most nearly approaches Karaourgan is not in the smallest degree south of the parallel of that village, and that, therefore, the San Stefano frontier cannot reach the crest near Zivin, as the Russians seek to show.

Your Lordship will perceive by the yellow line on the cloth tracing what is the direction that the Russians wish the frontier line should take; your Lordship will see how untenable are their arguments in favour of this line. The Treaty says (Article LVIII), "From a point to the west, near the village of Karaourgan, the frontier passes towards Medjingert." Now, Medjingert lies east of Karaourgan, and it therefore appears, in my humble judgment, that the south-west direction insisted on by the Russians is in direct violation of the terms of the Treaty of Berlin.

I trust, my Lord, that I have been sufficiently explicit in pointing out to your Lordship how vital to the defence of the Zivin position is the absolute retention of my point X in its integrity, and how essential it is that there should be no conditions whatever attached to the acceptance of a point of departure for our frontier eastward to Medjingert.

The Russians adduce the economic interests of the inhabitants of Karaourgan, and endeavour to show that any other trace than that they claim would cause a loss of their water-mills to the villagers. I ventured to point out to the Russian Commission that although water-mills were shown on his map in many places, yet there were no indications of one in the position of which he spoke. Even if there be such a mill, as one of the Turkish Commissioners (who supported me throughout) appositely remarked, "Il ne faut pas gâter une frontière naturelle pour le moulin d'un paysan."

The Russian Commissionaire-Adjoint and myself agreed to ask instructions from our respective Governments. I, therefore, beg that your Lordship will be pleased to give me instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 662.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 30.*)

(No. 39.) *Constantinople, May 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of the Protocol of the second séance of the Asiatic Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 662.

Protocole No. 2.—Séance tenue au Séraskierat, Stamboul, le 19 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha,
Son Excellence Feyzi Pacha,
M. le Colonel Schahab Bey.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine,
M. A. Emélianoff.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major F. C. H. Clarke,
M. le Capitaine W. Gill.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine, en qualité de Commissaire Adjoint du Général Stébnitsky, indisposé, présente ses pouvoirs, lesquels, lecture faite, ont été trouvés en bonne et due forme.

Son Excellence Nébjib Pacha, ayant pris la parole, a proposé de commencer les

travaux, et avant tout de fixer le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan avec la participation des trois Commissaires.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha dit qu'il faut, selon lui, commencer par lire le texte du Traité de Berlin.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine déclare qu'il a à communiquer la réponse au sujet de la majorité dont il a été question dans la dernière séance. Il dit que conformément au désir de son Excellence M. le Président, le Général Stébnitsky a soumis à l'approbation de M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie l'opinion qu'il a eu l'honneur d'exprimer dans la dernière séance sur le mode de décision de la Commission relativement aux changements de moindre importance dans le tracé de la ligne de frontière, ainsi que dans les questions de moindre importance. Son Excellence le Prince Lobanoff a exprimé que d'après l'avis de notre Gouvernement le principe de majorité dans le cas actuel ne saurait être accepté par le Commissaire.

Une conversation s'engage entre les membres de la Commission au sujet de la majorité, et *son Excellence Nédjib Pacha* déclare qu'en résumé il faut accepter l'unanimité puisque la majorité est rejetée par le Commissaire Russe.

M. le Président propose de commencer par le Traité de Berlin, et donne lecture des termes suivants:—

"D'un point à l'ouest près du village de Kara-Ourgan, la frontière se dirige sur Medjinghert, continue en ligne directe vers le sommet de la Montagne Keussé-Dagh, et longe la ligne du partage des eaux entre les affluents de l'Araxe au nord, et ceux de Moorad-Sou au sud jusqu'à l'ancienne frontière de la Russie."

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine prend la parole pour présenter à la Commission les observations du Général Stébnitsky relativement à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan. Il lit ce qui suit de la part de M. le Général Stébnitsky:—

"Le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès de Berlin porte que le Prince de Hohenlohe, Président de la Commission de Délimitation, près du Congrès, a donné lecture de ce qui est ci-après: '. . . . elle (la frontière) suivra cette rivière jusqu'à Bardouz, puis se dirigera vers le sud en laissant Bardouz et Yéni-keui à la Russie, et rejoindra la ligne fixée par le Traité de San Stéfano à Zevin-Kaleh.'

"Le Prince de Bismarck constate que le Congrès sanctionne le résultat des délibérations de la Commission."

"Il s'ensuit donc," continue le Général Stébnitsky, "que le point de la frontière (de la frontière tracée d'après le Traité de San Stéfano) le plus proche de Zevin, c'est-à-dire, à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan dans la même situation, a été aussi maintenu par le Congrès dans la frontière tracée par le Traité de Berlin."

M. le Major Clarke demande si le but de M. le Colonel Véreguine est de questionner le droit du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine, en réponse, invoque de nouveau les termes du Protocole No. 17, et ajoute que selon lui le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan se trouve déjà établi par le Congrès, et qu'il est, pour ainsi dire, immuable.

M. le Major Clarke prie M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine de lire jusqu'au bout les opinions de M. le Général Stébnitsky à l'égard du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine relit le Protocole No. 17, et dit que selon lui le point en question se trouve déjà établi par le Congrès, que si l'on devrait recommencer sa fixation on arriverait immanquablement à toucher au tracé qui précède le point, et qui a été fait par la Commission Russo-Turque, ce qui évidemment ne saurait être admis.

Sur la demande de M. le Major Clarke, les membres Ottomans de la Commission lui montrent comme point final de la frontière entre la Mer Noire et Kara-Ourgan, un point sur les hauteurs à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.[6]

M. le Major Clarke, tout en maintenant pour son Gouvernement le droit de participer à la fixation du point, dit que, afin d'accélérer le travail de la Commission il accepte le point tel qu'il lui a été montré.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha croit que comme le Traité porte "sur un point près du village de Kara-Ourgan," naturellement la frontière doit passer près de ce village.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine présente la carte déjà signée par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans pour démontrer que le point indiqué par lui est le point

[6] Ce point se trouve à une distance à peu près de 500 sagènes du village.

choisi par la Commission précédente;* il croit que c'est par ce point déjà établi que les travaux des Commissaires doivent commencer.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha dit que le point dont parle M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine n'est pas ce que les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans ont déjà choisi, et il croit que c'est par ce point déjà choisi près de Kara-Ourgan que doivent commencer les travaux des Commissaires.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine dit que le point qu'il indique se trouve près de Kara-Ourgan, que ce point se trouve sur une crête bien élevée, et que si on l'approchait davantage de Kara-Ourgan, on ferait passer dans le territoire Turc les moulins situés sur la rivière, qui constituent les propriétés des habitants de ce village. Or, il est entendu que les propriétés doivent être conservées aux habitants.

Son Excellence Nizami Pacha dit que le point près de Kara-Ourgan est aussi élevé, et, par conséquent, il peut être fixé.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine maintient son point.

M. le Major Clarke désire suivre la frontière naturelle, et ne pas quitter la crête; il indique sur la carte le point par où les travaux doivent commencer.†

M. le Colonel Schéhab Bey se déclare pour le point près de Kara-Ourgan, et ajoute qu'autrement on serait obligé de couper la vallée et la rivière.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine répond que pour passer d'une crête sur une autre, naturellement on doit couper la vallée.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha demande à M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine son opinion sur le point.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine maintient que le point indiqué est le plus élevé et plus propre à servir de frontière; en outre, ce point sauvegarde les intérêts économiques des habitants de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Major Clarke déclare qu'il ne peut pas admettre aucun tracé de la frontière arrêtée par la Commission Russe et Turque au sud de Kara-Ourgan. Le point de départ pour les discussions doit être un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine insiste sur les intérêts économiques des habitants.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha dit que la question des intérêts économiques ne peut pas être un empêchement pour établir une frontière administrative. Il est admis partout que les propriétaires ne sont pas privés de leurs biens lorsque ceux-ci passent dans le territoire d'une autre Puissance; il s'ensuit que les habitants de Kara-Ourgan conserveraient toujours leurs droits de propriété, quand même les moulins passeraient dans le territoire Turc.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine maintient l'importance des intérêts économiques, et ajoute, en même temps, que le point indiqué par lui satisfait aussi aux intérêts administratifs, vu que ce point est une crête presque quatre fois plus élevée que le point près de Kara-Ourgan.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha pense qu'on ne peut pas gâter une frontière naturelle pour les moulins d'un paysan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine exprime que dans toutes les autres Commissions on a tenu compte des propriétés.

M. le Major Clarke dit qu'il a participé à la délimitation de la Bulgare, et que partout on donnait la préférence aux accidents du terrain, et qu'on n'a pas tenu compte en général des intérêts économiques.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha fait rappeler qu'ils ont réservé dans le Protocole précédent aux Délégués un paragraphe pour sauvegarder les intérêts locaux, et puis, il ajoute, qu'il ne peut pas choisir un autre point que celui qu'il a montré.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Véreguine dit que, sans le consentement de M. le Général Stébnitsky, il ne peut pas accepter le point proposé par les Commissaires Anglais et Ottomans. Il référera la question à M. le Général Stébnitsky.

La séance est levée à 3 heures 15 minutes.

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* Dans cette carte la frontière suit la crête à l'ouest de Yéni-Keuy et Abilkart, mais plus loin (sur une autre section de la carte qui n'est pas signée), elle quitte la crête par une ligne courbe, traverse la vallée et gagne une autre crête au sud-ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

† Ce point se trouve à l'intersection de la ligne qui suit la crête à l'ouest de Yéni-Keuy et Abilkart avec le parallèle de Kara-Ourgan; le point est indiqué sur la carte soumise au Gouvernement Ottoman par ses Commissaires et dont une copie lui a été fournie.

No. 663.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

(No. 74.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May 18, 1879.*

THE publication of the text of the Convention between Austria and Turkey has produced far less effect in Buda-Pesth than in Vienna, and, as far as I see and hear, its stipulations are not antagonistically criticized either by the politicians or the press of the Opposition. Their comments are restricted in general to the expression of surprise that so much negotiation was necessary over a diplomatic document which, according to them, contains so little, and they affect to think it a pity that so much mystery was made over a transaction in which they see that Count Andrassy has shown considerable deference to their views and so conciliatory a temper towards the Porte. But the discontent of the chief organ of public opinion here, the "Pester Lloyd," is very remarkable. After the fashion of another and better-known leading journal, this newspaper is at times somewhat reckless on the score of consistency; and having for months past disapproved the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, it is now sorely distressed at the manner in which the provisional nature of that occupation is emphasized in the Convention. It asks whether the country is to acquiesce in such sacrifices of men and money for advantages so problematical as those secured by this instrument, and accuses Count Andrassy's diplomacy of having squandered away all that was gained by the sword.

The Department of the Minister for Foreign Affairs was not slow to reply to this attack, and dispatched a long *communiqué* (published as a letter from a well-informed Vienna correspondent), in which the arguments of Dr. Falk's journal are controverted *seriatim*. Particular stress is laid upon Count Andrassy's declaration in the Delegations when he was questioned as to the eventual retrocession of the provinces. His Excellency then said that "when Christians and Mussulmans shall have learned to live at peace with one another; when sufficient guarantees shall have been obtained for the maintenance of public safety and order in the two provinces; and when the Porte shall be prepared to reimburse Austria for the expenses of the occupation, then it will be time to talk of the surrender of Bosnia and the Herzegovina to their titular Sovereign."

The "Lloyd," however, will not admit the explanations of the Vienna Foreign Office, and argues that the Convention must be taken to be either honest or dishonest. If the former, what is Austria's business in a country which does not belong to her? If the latter, has not this country the right to assume that the Government has definitely adopted an Oriental policy of adventure?

It seems to me that either Count Andrassy is making use of the "Pester Lloyd" to gauge the Magyar temper upon this question, or that there is an understanding between him and the editor that the newspaper shall be allowed to affect for the moment an independence which may hereafter redound to its credit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 664.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 312.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 22, 1879.*

PRINCE BATTENBERG arrived here the evening before last, and was received yesterday by the Emperor, dining afterwards at Schœnbrunn with their Imperial Majesties.

He did me the honour of coming in the evening to a party that I was giving at the Embassy, at which, however, I was able to have but little conversation with him.

He spoke of his route and the time of his arrival in Bulgaria as having been "settled," apparently at Livadia, and said that he proposed to leave Vienna to-morrow for Berlin, Darmstadt, London, Paris, Rome, and Constantinople, so as to reach Varna on the $\frac{17th}{29th}$ June.

I told him, as directed by your Lordship, that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to welcome him in England, but that the Queen would unfortunately be in Scotland before he reached London, at which His Highness expressed much disappointment. I added that Her Majesty's Government would regret to learn that he would not assume his government at an earlier period than he had named, as they attache importance to the

terms of the Treaty of Berlin being adhered to as closely as possible, and it had laid down that the provisional régime in Bulgaria was not to be prolonged beyond nine months, which were already expired.

His visits to the different capitals, and a few days with his own family to enable him to make some necessary preparations, could not, His Highness said, be accomplished quicker than in four or five weeks.

I assured him that Her Majesty's Government had learnt his election with much pleasure, and that he could count upon any support they could afford him in giving effect to the arrangements that had been made at Berlin, and in overcoming the difficulties that he might perhaps meet with. He would probably find at first an indisposition among the Bulgarians to act with justice towards the class that had hitherto been dominant, and over which they had shown a disposition to tyrannize, and I hoped he would make it his first care to prove that all creeds and classes should enjoy equal protection and equal justice.

His Highness replied that he certainly would not be disposed to countenance any oppression of the Turks, of whom, as a people, apart from their rulers, he had taken a very favourable impression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 665.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 314. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May* 22, 1879.

THE German Ambassador, with whom Prince Battenberg has naturally spoken about his own position, tells me that the Prince hopes that before he arrives in Bulgaria the members of the Consular Commission, *ad hoc*, will have been replaced by the permanent Agents whom the different Governments intend to maintain there.

Prince Reuss said he understood it to be the intention of Count Andrassy to appoint, as Austro-Hungarian Agent, a man who had diplomatic rather than Consular experience; and that, as the Prince might at first often have occasion to require impartial advice, it was greatly to be desired that the Agents of all the Powers should be persons of sound judgment.

I replied that, to the best of my belief, Her Majesty's Government intended Mr. Palgrave, their present Delegate, should remain in Bulgaria as Consul-General or Agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 666.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 316. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May* 22, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY informs me confidentially that Prince Battenberg had told him that he had not at all wished to go to Livadia, and that he had declined the invitation when it was first sent to him, but it had been repeated in such urgent terms as to leave him no alternative, and this made it necessary for him to visit all the other Courts.

The Prince told Mr. Jerningham, to whom he spoke as an old friend with whom he had been very intimate at Darmstadt, that there were financial considerations that made it necessary for him to go to Livadia, without which the Emperor would not afford him the pecuniary assistance indispensable to him upon assuming his government.

Count Andrassy does not attach much importance to the prolongation, entailed by the Prince's journey, of the provisional régime in Bulgaria, while the Russian troops remain in the Principality, for he considers that any objections to it will be more than counterbalanced by his not assuming his government till the evacuation is completed, which he hopes may practically be the case by the time fixed for his arrival at Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 667.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 320. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May* 24, 1879.

THE impression produced here by Prince Battenberg has been extremely favourable.

I believe that, as was natural, he took advice from Prince Reuss as to the language he should hold, and he seems entirely to have satisfied Count Andrassy, by his manner of speaking, of the line he proposed to follow when he assumed the government of Bulgaria.

His intention, he said, was to show that he meant loyally to carry out the arrangement made by the European Powers, without relying upon anyone in particular. With this object he would not countenance any attempts to extend the Principality beyond the limits that had been assigned to it, but within those limits to encourage the development of the resources of the country, and to ensure, as far as possible, the well-doing and prosperity of the populations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 668.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 321.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May* 24, 1879.

MESSRS. GUESHOFF AND ZANKOFF, the East Roumelian Delegates, arrived here a few days ago, but have not been received by Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 669.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, May* 30.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, May* 25, 1879.

A LETTER from a military correspondent in Serajevo (Bosna Serai), upon the "Practical Results of the Austro-Turkish Convention," appears this morning in a prominent manner in the "Pester Lloyd." I have made inquiry as to its origin, and am confidentially informed that it emanates from a staff officer at Serajevo.

The writer's object is to give expression to the painful impression produced on the army by the Convention, which he characterizes as a tissue of empty formalities, without any concrete value. The particular defect with which he most concerns himself is the exemption from military service which will be enjoyed by the Bosnians and the Herzegovinians, and when it is recollected that the War Department at Vienna has for the last two or three years been advocating the annexation of the two provinces as a measure necessary for recruiting purposes the bitterness of the deception is intelligible. It is true that regulations have been made by which the natives of the provinces may volunteer into the Austro-Hungarian army; but their service under the colours will be limited to three years, and as "foreigners" they will not pass into the reserves or into the Landwehr.

The writer remarks further, that of the three points on the Lim mentioned in the Convention as to be occupied by the Austro-Hungarian troops, Priboj is no longer in existence, having been utterly destroyed three years ago during the insurrection. The second point, Prijepolje, is inhabited by peaceable people, but beyond that point the writer expects that the Albanians will make the advance of the troops—limited in all to a corps of 5,000 men—a matter of extreme difficulty.

This is a brief analysis of a long and trenchant letter, one published, as I am given to understand, as a sort of military manifesto. Your Excellency, having better means of knowing the real sentiments of military men than I have, will take it for what it is worth.

I may as well, however, remark, in connection with the subject, that the members of Count Andrassy's family affect to believe in the truth of the rumours that he has recently tendered his resignation, and that in Buda-Pesth there is, among people who are generally

well informed, a conviction that the military party at Court is working hard to effect his downfall, while the Empress is exerting her utmost influence in his support. In Hungary any loss of prestige by Count Andrassy proportionally modifies M. Tisza's solidity; and the occasion of a demonstration at the Academy, in memory of the late Baron Eötvos, having attracted to Pesth a large attendance of Hungarian magnates and politicians, including Count Andrassy himself, the air is filled with political rumours and conjectures of new combinations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 670.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 324. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 26, 1879.
My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY informs his Government that he believes the objections of the Sultan to the Secret Article annexed to the Novi-Bazar Convention were greatly due to the effect produced on His Majesty's mind by a report that had been spread at Constantinople of an arrangement between England and Austria, by which the latter would obtain a portion of Macedonia, including Salonica, while we were to get territory on the Persian Gulf.

His Majesty had, moreover, been led to imagine that he has more to gain by coming to a close understanding with Servia and Montenegro than from any agreement with Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 671.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 326.)
Vienna, May 26, 1879.
My Lord,

I ALLOWED Count Andrassy to have a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 327 of the 13th instant, and I have since asked his Excellency whether he concurred with Her Majesty's Government in considering that any cession of territory to be made to Greece should be subject to the condition that the Greek Government shall bestow upon its new subjects the same liberty in respect to the exterior practice of religion as is conferred upon them by the laws of the Ottoman Empire from which they are to be separated.

He replied that he recognized the correctness of the principle contended for by your Lordship, but that he had not fully examined the question, and would wish, before saying more, to ascertain the existence of a necessity for making the condition you propose.

I said that, if he would look at the inclosures to your Lordship's despatch, he would see, not only that the law forbids any person opening a school in Greece from receiving in it a child belonging to the Orthodox Church, but also that that law had been invoked by the Greek Government in the case of a school opened by Protestants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 672.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 327.)
Vienna, May 27, 1879.
My Lord,

AN Albanian deputation, the same, I believe, that was recently at Rome, has arrived at Vienna, for the purpose of protesting against the cession to Greece of any Albanian territory.

I am informed that Count Andrassy has not decided whether to receive them or not, but he looks upon them as being differently situated from the East Roumelian deputation, as questions affecting their country and fellow-countrymen have still to be decided, which will render it just and proper to listen to what they have to say.

Whether his Excellency sees them himself or refers them to Baron Orczy, he does not propose to express to them any opinion upon the arguments they may bring forward, but will submit them to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople, to be taken into consideration when the question of the frontier is discussed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 673.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 328.)
Vienna, May 27, 1879.
My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that when Count Andrassy declined receiving Messrs. Gueshoff and Zankoff he directed Baron Orczy to inform them that the Organic Statute for East Roumelia having already received the approval of the Sultan, the time for any European interference in the arrangements to be come to had passed.

I understand them to have retorted that as the Treaty of Berlin was still unexecuted in some particulars, and as the Russians had not left the province, the Powers might properly take cognizance of the modifications which they wished to have introduced into the arrangements, but this argument produced no impression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 674.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 329. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 27, 1879.
My Lord,

EDHEM PASHA had to-day his first interview with Count Andrassy, who, I am told, was well pleased with the language he had been instructed to hold.

When the Secret Article of the Novi-Bazar Convention was spoken of, the Ambassador said that, though the Sultan had entertained insuperable objections to it as it stood, His Majesty would not be unwilling to conclude an agreement of a similar kind, but upon a basis that would give it a more extended application.

Count Andrassy answered that as the Article which has just been expunged had been communicated at Constantinople to the very parties from whom it ought to have been most carefully concealed, he did not feel much encouraged to enter at present into a fresh secret negotiation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 675.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 330.)
Vienna, May 27, 1879.
My Lord,

I ASKED Baron Orczy yesterday what view was taken by the Austro-Hungarian Government of the demand of the Porte for the repayment of the advances made to the European Commission of the Danube.

He said that the Turkish Government was considered here to be entitled to reimbursement, but not to require that it should at once be made in full by a single payment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 676.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 586.)
Paris, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have to-day furnished M. Waddington with a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 604 of the 27th instant, conveying the answer of Her Majesty's Government to his Excellency's Circular of the 19th instant relative to the manner in which the proposed mediation of the Powers between the Porte and Greece should actually be tendered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 677.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram which I have received to-day from his Excellency M. Delyanni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 677.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

(Télégraphique.)
Athènes, le 29 Mai, 1879.

PAR ma Circulaire en date du 24 Mai, je vous ai entretenu de l'état de la sécurité publique dans les provinces limitrophes de la Turquie. Aujourd'hui je m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance un télégramme que le Ministre de la Guerre vient de recevoir des autorités militaires d'une de nos provinces situées sur la frontière.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Turquie a dit au Ministre Hellène à Constantinople il y a quelques mois, que la Convention sur l'extirpation du brigandage, expirée depuis des années et non renouvelée, n'est plus en vigueur. D'après cette théorie, les troupes Turques devaient s'arrêter sur la ligne, et n'avaient aucun droit d'entrer dans notre territoire. Mais dans le cas même où la Convention pour l'extirpation du brigandage pourrait être regardée comme étant en vigueur, les troupes Turques devaient s'arrêter et remettre la poursuite des brigands aux détachements des troupes Grecques qu'elles auraient rencontrés sur la ligne. Malgré ceci les troupes Ottomanes ont violé le territoire sans en avoir le droit, et ont attaqué nos garnisons qui, se trouvant en défense, ont repoussé l'attaque. Veuillez porter à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères l'historique de ce fait, et dire à son Excellence qu'il n'est pas improbable que les troupes Turques, une fois repoussées, n'essayeraient une seconde irruption. Dans cette éventualité nos gardes-frontière ne manqueront pas de faire leur devoir en les repoussant de nouveau.

Voici le télégramme des autorités militaires d'Eurytanie, reçu par le Ministre de la Guerre:—

"D'un rapport du Commandant des colonnes mobiles près de la ligne-frontière d'Eurytanie il résulte que le —— du mois courant un détachement de Turcs, au nombre de 500, donnant la chasse à 125 brigands environ, sous le Chef de bande Zoulouni, est arrivé sur la ligne-frontière à la commune des Otimenies. Au bruit des coups de feu les détachements Grecs ont occupé des positions opportunes pour attaquer à leur tour les brigands, dans le cas où leur bande aurait essayé de passer la frontière. Ceux-ci, dans la crainte de se voir attaqués aussi par nos soldats, rebroussèrent chemin et rentrèrent dans le territoire Turc. Les détachements Turcs continuèrent d'avancer, firent irruption dans le territoire Grec, et commencèrent à tirer, au son de trompettes, contre nos soldats, quoique ceux-ci leur fissent savoir qu'ils étaient des soldats Hellènes, et qu'ils occupaient la position où ils se trouvaient dans le seul but d'attaquer aussi les brigands poursuivis par les troupes Turques. Comme les soldats Turcs n'en voulaient rien entendre et qu'ils continuaient leur feu, notre détachement s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de riposter. Un engagement de trois heures s'ensuivit, dont le résultat fut la retraite du détachement Turc, après avoir perdu un petit nombre de soldats."

No. 678.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, May 29, 1879.

GREEK Government have heard from military authorities on frontier that on 13/14th instant 500 Ottoman soldiers were in pursuit of 125 brigands on Thessalian frontier.

Greek soldiers prepared to attack brigands if they should cross frontier. Perceiving this the brigands withdrew, unperceived by Turks, into Ottoman territory.

Ottoman soldiers passed the frontier and fired on Greek soldiers, in spite of latter making known that they were only there in pursuit of brigands. Turks continued their fire. Greek detachment returned it. Engagement continued for three hours. Turks eventually retired after loss of three men. No Greeks killed.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 679.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, May 29, 1879.

WITH reference to Sir H. Layard's telegram to your Lordship of 29th instant, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs denies positively that Greek soldiers have been sent to incite insurrection in Thessaly. Insurrectionary Committee here having no funds cannot have done so.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 680.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, May 29, 1879.

IN my telegram of to-day, for "Thessalian frontier," read "frontier of Epirus."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 681.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 198. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philippopolis, May 29, 1879.

I FIND that Kallay has hinted Austria would not so much object to the union of Slav provinces if not brought about by Russian agency.

He tells me this is not for a pro-Austrian but an anti-Russian object.

Austria, I think, requires watching.

No. 682.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philippopolis, May 29, 1879.

THIS morning Aleko Pasha sent round to invite Commission to attend to-morrow the reading of Firman and the hoisting of Turkish flag on flagstaff, which had been fixed in morning.

The French and Turkish Commissioners arrived this afternoon. This evening at 10 P. M. a meeting of Commission was convoked to advise Governor-General as to whether the flag should be hoisted. He sent to say disturbances were threatened if this were done, in which case he would resign his post. After long discussion we

decided that whereas hoisting or non-hoisting of flag during reading of Firman did not affect introduction of Statute, the Governor-General was alone competent to decide on the opportuneness of the formality. It was stated by the Turkish Commissioners that it was not the habit for Governors to hoist their flags over konaks.

Aleko Pasha intends to announce that nothing will ever induce him to call in Turkish troops. This declaration and the threat of resignation, which may constantly be repeated, show the uselessness of having the Commission here.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 683.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, May* 29, 1879.

ALL has gone off quietly. The Firman was read in Turkish by one of Assim Pasha's secretaries, and then in Bulgarian. The Greeks are very indignant, and I think justly, at its not having been likewise read in Greek, as the Statute requires. The Turkish flag was not hoisted, and Aleko Pasha did not make intended announcement about Turkish troops. The militia under General Vitalis carried flags, which he says will be deposited in cathedral. There was one shout for Prince Alexander of Bulgaria. No enthusiasm of any kind.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 684.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 460.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 29, 1879.

I HAVE received following telegram from Consul-General Michell, dated [? 9, wrong]:—

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, I am informed that Eagle Committee here have this morning replied to Kustendil Committee that they cannot take upon themselves to direct movements of the Macedonian insurgents, but must refer to Moscow.

"The Eagle Committee was yesterday reduced from eighteen members to six members, under the Presidency of M. Groueff, and the meetings are in future to be most strictly secret."

No. 685.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 461.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 29, 1879.

FOLLOWING received from Consul-General Eldridge, dated yesterday:—

"Rustem Pasha arrived yesterday; he was received with great enthusiasm; thousands of people from different parts of mountain to welcome his Excellency."

No. 686.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1879, 2·35 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 65 of the 12th instant, pray urge the Porte earnestly to lose no time in appointing the Special Commissioners they are bound to name under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 687.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1879, 3·10 P.M.

IN reply to your despatch No. 222 of the 19th instant, I approve your views as to the question of the Russian claim for the expenses of the occupation. We never could admit any "claim on the customs of Bourgas."

No. 688.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1879, 11·50 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador brought me Circular calling our attention to necessity of accrediting our Diplomatic Agents to Prince Alexander. I replied that there was in Roumania, as it existed before the war, a precedent which would guide us; and I would ascertain the precise course pursued in that case.

No. 689.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 750.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1879.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which has been received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, in which he draws attention to the serious dangers to which the Porte will expose itself by neglecting to nominate the special Commissions required by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and which are to be intrusted with the settlement of the details of the new laws in the European provinces of Turkey for which no special organization has been otherwise provided under the Treaty.

In my despatch No. 667 of the 12th instant your Excellency has been already informed that it is believed that the Russians have been agitating for the establishment of these Committees, and I have now to request that you will earnestly renew the representations you have previously been instructed to address to the Porte on the subject, and that you will urge upon it, in the strongest manner you can command, the grave responsibility and serious dangers with which it will certainly be menaced in the future if it does not immediately carry out its obligations under this Article of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 690.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 364.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1879.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF communicated to me to-day a Circular note from the Russian Government, calling attention to the necessity of Diplomatic Agents being accredited by the Powers to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria. He said he would be glad to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government upon this point.

I replied that there was a precedent, which would serve as a guide, in the representation of the Powers in Roumania as she existed before the late war; and that, before expressing a definite opinion, I should wish to ascertain precisely the course which had been followed in that Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 691.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 252.)

Foreign Office, May 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE informed you this day by telegraph that I concur in the views embodied in your despatch No. 222 of the 19th ultimo, showing the necessity for bringing forward a discussion upon the Russian claims on Eastern Roumelia for the expenses of the military occupation of the province, and I approve your suggestions as to the limits within which such discussion should be confined.

With regard to the danger anticipated by Carathéodory Pasha, that the Russians may advance claims against the Custom-house of Bourgas, I have to state to you that such a pretension on their part could never be admitted by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 692.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 80. Political.)

Scutari, May 17, 1879.

My Lord,

AS your Lordship is reported in the "Times" to have stated in the House of Lords on Monday, the 5th instant, "that Montenegro is in possession of all the territory that she is entitled to by the Treaty of Berlin," I trust your Lordship will pardon me for venturing to point out that although the Porte professes to have withdrawn its troops and administration from the district of Plava-Goussinié, still that territory has not yet been surrendered to, nor been occupied by, Montenegro.

By the 6th Article of the Protocol of Vir Bazar, copy of which was transmitted in my despatch No. 29B, Political, of the 5th February last, it appears that the Montenegrin Commissioners demanded that Plava-Goussinié should be officially surrendered by Turkey to the Principality, and the Turkish Commissioners, on the plea that they were only authorized to treat for the delivery of localities belonging to the Vilayet of Scutari, requested that the question should be left open for an understanding to be come to between the two Governments.

In my despatch No. 37, Political, of the 15th February, 1879, I made known to your Lordship the desire of both the Turks and the Montenegrins to obtain a modification of the frontier near Goussinié fixed by the Treaty of Berlin, and, I believe, this desire still prevails, but, until the Austrian Government also expresses its readiness to permit a rectification, it must be assumed that the Treaty boundary will have to be strictly adhered to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 693.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)

(No 137)

Bucharest, May 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival at Bucharest of Baron d'Essen, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of Sweden and Norway, on a special mission to present his Sovereign's congratulations to Prince Charles I, in reply to the announcement of the independence of Roumania which was made by Prince Brancovano in a special mission, as reported to your Lordship by Mr. White on the 28th April last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 694.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 236. Strictly Confidential.)

Rome, May 25, 1879.

My Lord,

DURING a visit I paid to Count Tornielli three days ago, I asked him whether he knew what was the present state of the negotiations in regard to the Greek frontier business, and whether any further communication had been made by the French Government with respect to their proposal of mediation.

Count Tornielli replied that some days ago the French Ambassador had read to him a despatch from his Government, thanking the Italian Government for their answer to the French proposal. The Italian despatch, he said, was reproduced in the French despatch in a way to make the most of the acceptance in principle of the mediation, while the reserves which it contained in regard to the main question ("la question de fond") and the method by which the mediation was to be exercised appeared to be purposely slurred over.

Count Tornielli said that he was of course very glad that their answer had pleased the French Government, and he was delighted to have their thanks; but he really could not understand the object with which this last despatch of M. Waddington had been written, unless it were with a view to publication in some future collection of French diplomatic correspondence.

Count Tornielli then proceeded to speak of the Greek frontier question in language precisely similar to that which he has always held respecting it, and which I have reported in several previous despatches. He expressed himself with some little humour as to the way in which this affair is being pushed by the French Government, and which he attributed to their desire to obtain the appearance of a diplomatic victory in the East, where it could not be said that their policy had hitherto been very successful.

If Count Tornielli speaks in a somewhat ruffled tone about the French Government, it is only right to say that the French Ambassador is not much more placid in speaking about that of Italy.

The Marquis de Noailles pooh-poohs the reports of M. Goubernatis, and says they were written according to order. He even asserts that the petition, or representation, which was presented to the French Government by the Albanian Delegates, who first came to Rome, was drawn up upon an article which appeared in the "Diritto" newspaper. He allows Count Tornielli, he says, to dilate at his leisure upon the proposed danger of a rising in Albania, should the line of the Congress be adhered to. It is a matter of indifference what the Italian Government think and do; what France has to consider is the line England will take. If the English Government speak seriously at Constantinople as to the necessity of the Turks making the cession of territory required of them, then, according to M. de Noailles, they will yield; but if, on the contrary, Her Majesty's Government allow the Turks to see they are not in earnest, they will hold out.

If the Marquis de Noailles' theory is correct, and that the apprehensions of the Italian Government about a rising in Albania are insincere, it would be interesting to know what is the motive and reason of their so suddenly changing their policy in regard to the Greek question, with the consequence of placing themselves in opposition to the general feeling of this country, in which the cause of Greece is certainly very popular.

There is, indeed, the apprehension of Austrian intervention, but Austria was quite as much the bugbear of the Cairoli Ministry as it is that of M. Depretis, and yet it was under the instructions of M. Cairoli that Count Corti joined M. Waddington in the proposal for a rectification of the Greek frontier at the Congress of Berlin. M. Cairoli, in taking up the Greek cause, knew that he would be doing a thing which would be well received in Italy; and of course it would be much easier for M. Depretis to follow in the track of his predecessor than to strike out another line of his own. If, therefore, he does not follow M. Cairoli's policy, it seems to me not unnatural to suppose that he must have acquired better information than was possessed by M. Cairoli as to the real state of feeling in Albania, and that the result of this information is such as to convince him that it will not be for the good of Greece, or in furtherance of a peaceful solution of this question, and, consequently, not in the interests of Italy, that the line of frontier suggested at the Congress should be absolutely and strictly adhered to. I cannot conceive what concealed object the Italian

Government can have in causing reports to be manufactured, as is supposed by the French Ambassador, in support of a policy at variance with the one which they originally joined in initiating, and which may possibly cause them some difficulty at home, because, if the feelings of the population in the districts proposed to be ceded are really in favour of annexation to Greece, then there is no danger of a rising, and consequently no danger of a foreign intervention, which is what the Italian Government most dreads. I am unable, therefore, to share the opinions of my French colleague in regard to M. Goubernatis' reports.

The Italian Government, if I correctly understand their policy, are anxious upon two points: first, they think it essential, in the general interests of Europe, that Turkey should still continue to exist as an independent Power, capable of performing the duty, *i.e.*, defending the Straits and the Bosphorus, confided to her by Europe, and consequently that it is inexpedient to deprive her of territory which would be calculated to diminish her strength; secondly, they are, nevertheless, in favour of an enlargement of the Kingdom of Greece, but they think that this should be accomplished by ceding to Greece such districts as are unmistakably Greek in their feeling, so that while their annexation would be a source of strength and not of weakness to the Greek Kingdom, there would, on the other hand, not be a diminution of the strength and vitality of Turkey. An arrangement which would secure the contentment of the population would, in the opinion of the Italian Government, be calculated to promote the interests of both Turkey and Greece, as well as their future peaceful relations, and, therefore, to prevent the occurrence of further European complications in regard to this question.

Such is the general sense of the language which, as may have been seen by my previous reports, has consistently been held to me by the present Italian Prime Minister and the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, and it is the sense in which they both spoke to me again last night, when I met them at the French Embassy.

Count Tornielli began by informing me that the day before the Marquis de Noailles, who was unable to leave his room, had sent one of the Secretaries to him with a copy of a fresh despatch from M. Waddington, proposing a sort of preliminary meeting of the Representatives at Constantinople to settle the best way of giving effect to the mediation which, according to the despatch, had been accepted in principle by all the Powers. Count Tornielli said that instructions had immediately been sent to Count Menabrea to place himself in communication with your Lordship upon this subject, adding also that the Italian Government was most anxious to come to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government upon the main (frontier) question also.

This was repeated by M. Depretis, and they both then again expressed themselves to the effect I have described above.

In my conversation with Count Tornielli, I mentioned casually having seen a telegram in the papers to the effect that Germany was strongly supporting French policy at Constantinople upon the Greek question, intelligence which he said he believed was quite correct, and this gave me the opportunity of asking whether the German Government in its zeal for the success of France had brought its influence to bear upon that of Italy in any way, in reply to which Count Tornielli assured me that the Italian Government had received no communication whatever from the Government of Germany upon this question, either here or in Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 695.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 462.) *Therapia, May* 30, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Michell, dated to-day:—

"Governor-General's address substantially following:—

"'Dear fellow-countrymen,

"'Sultan, desiring to re-establish prosperity in province which has suffered so much, has named him for five years to apply Organic Statute, elaborated by Commission representing Signataries, and which contains details of ameliorations. Union and submission of all inhabitants indispensable for faithful and complete application of Statute. Inhabitants must not be discouraged by recollection of past, but profit by advantages accorded by present, and, by principle, apply Statute. Order and good understanding between inhabitants in general, and between private individuals in particular, can alone render possible enjoyment of fruits of zeal, labour, and the increase of public riches and prosperity. Therefore endeavour to maintain public tranquillity, while devoting yourselves to labour and occupation. Entry of Ottoman troops subordinate to maintenance of public order and on his demand, which can only be made on personal appreciation, and according to importance of circumstances. Confident that patriotic inhabitants will abstain from any act that would justify such entry, those who endeavour to make believe that entry will be made, and thus frighten inhabitants, are completely ignorant of Porte's real intention, for in all cases where Imperial Government feels necessity of occupying frontiers and certain other localities with troops, it will, of course, only be done when forced to conform with Berlin Treaty, and in order to it to intimidate (*sic*) or frighten inhabitants. This proved by his arrival here without troops. Don't listen to malevolent suggestions; show gratitude to Porte, occupying yourselves with your welfare and with interests of your country, and by devoting every effort to facilitate literal execution of Statute, which secures liberal administration. Concludes with prayers for health and happiness.

(Signed) "'ALEXANDER VOGORIDES.'"

No. 696.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May* 30, 1879.

THE Chambers are convoked for Tuesday next, the 3rd June.

It is thought that the opposition of all shades will combine to raise a Ministerial question before the Jewish question comes on.

In this case, unless an arrangement can be made with some fraction of the Opposition, the Government majority may be very small.

No. 697.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 31. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1879, 3·30 P.M.

IF this reaches you before Aleko has made declaration about not summoning Ottoman troops, represent to him, confidentially, that any such declaration on his part will make the establishment of garrisons on the frontier an absolute necessity.

No. 698.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 254. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1879.

IN your telegram No. 199 of the 29th instant you state that it is reported that at the ceremony of reading the Sultan's Firman at Philippopolis the new Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia intends to announce that nothing will ever induce him to summon Turkish troops into the province.

I have, in reply, informed you to-day by telegraph that should you receive the instruction in time I should wish you to intimate to Aleko Pasha that any such declaration on his part will render the speedy establishment of garrisons on the frontier by the Porte an absolute necessity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 699.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 323.)

Foreign Office, May 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 183 of the 15th instant, I have to state to you that I approve the observations, as therein reported, which you addressed to Baron Jomini when discussing with him the period within which the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian troops should be completed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.